

### l and ɫ worksheet

[l] is the lateral approximant L; [ɫ] is called the “velarized lateral approximant” or sometimes called *dark* L. It’s pronounced like L, but with the back of your tongue raised close to the back of your mouth.

Here is a list of some English [Received Pronunciation, UK English] words:

[fʊɫ]	<i>full</i>
[fiɫ]	<i>feel</i>
[li:f]	<i>leaf</i>
[loʊf]	<i>loaf</i>
[fiɫ]	<i>fill</i>
[fiɫəɹ]	<i>filler</i>
[fiɫeɪ]	<i>fillet</i>
[flæsk]	<i>flask</i>
[lift]	<i>lift</i>
[miɫk]	<i>milk</i>
[beɪɫ]	<i>belt</i>

**A) Are [l] and [ɫ] two different phonemes, or are they allophones of the same phoneme (different pronunciations of the same phoneme)? Give evidence to explain why you made this conclusion.**

Allophones of the same phoneme. They are in complementary distribution: [l] only occurs when there's a vowel after it, and [ɫ] occurs elsewhere (at the end of a word or when there's a consonant after it).

Here is a list of some more English [Received Pronunciation, UK English] words:

[fiɫ]	<i>fill</i>	→	[fiɫəɹ]	<i>filler</i>
[biɫ]	<i>bill</i>	→	[biɫɪŋ]	<i>billing</i>
[gʊɫ]	<i>goal</i>	→	[gʊɫi]	<i>goalie (goalkeeper)</i>

**B) Write a rule that describes the alternation (change) between [ɫ] and [l]. Make sure you use natural classes, so that one rule can cover all the words shown above.**

ɫ → l / \_V

Now here's some Albanian words:

[vjeɫ]	<i>crop</i>	[θeɫə]	<i>loaf</i>
[mat̚]	<i>goods</i>	[θeɫə]	<i>profound</i>
[lak]	<i>loop</i>	[vjeɫ]	<i>to throw up</i>
[mal]	<i>mountain</i>	[diɛɫ]	<i>Sunday</i>
[diɛɫ]	<i>sun</i>	[ɫak]	<i>spray</i>

**C) Are [l] and [ɫ] two different phonemes in Albanian, or are they allophones of the same phoneme (different pronunciations of the same phoneme)? Justify your answer with evidence.**

Two different phonemes. They occur in the same context, as we can see from minimal pairs like [θeɫə] and [θeɫə].

**D) Describe the differences (if any) between the English and Albanian phonological systems in this example.**

In Albanian these sounds are realizations of two different phonemes, whereas in English they are different realizations of the same phoneme:

