



Transcription Assignment



Transcribe the missing section of the conversation on the next page.

- If you click on the transcript you will get a Quicktime movie of the sound you have to transcribe. You can play that movie, while using a word processing program to write your transcript.
- Mark overlap by joining the talk of different speakers on different lines with a left bracket (for an example look at the last two lines of the first section).
- Try to get what both speakers in overlap are saying. Replay the section you are working on as many times as necessary. Try to indicate exactly where the overlap begins.
- If you are not sure what is being said put what you think is being said in parenthesis. If you can't understand at all what's being said put a parenthesis with nothing inside.
- Mark periods of silence. If you have a stopwatch try to measure the length of the silence.
- You need not be concerned about the names of the participants. If you wish just call different people A, B, C, etc.
- On the pages after the transcript you will find a short description of the system developed by Gail Jefferson for transcribing talk in conversation. Use what features you find relevant. The issue is less to come up with the "right answer" than to develop your abilities to listen carefully to the different kinds of phenomena that occur in natural speech, and to try and capture them on the printed page as accurately as possible.
- From any page the  will take you to the audio movie and the  will take you to page you are to transcribe



The fragment you are transcribing is approximately 9 seconds long.

George: I gave, I gave up smoking **cigarettes**::=

Bob: =Yea:h.

(0.4)

George: I-uh: **one**- one week [ago t'da'y. acshilly,

(Bob): [°(h-ehh)

Lynn: Rilly? en y'quit fer **good**?

George: Yu [p hh

Ruth: [**Mm**?

Transcribe This Section

Lynn: But whaddiyoub haftuy pr [a:y?

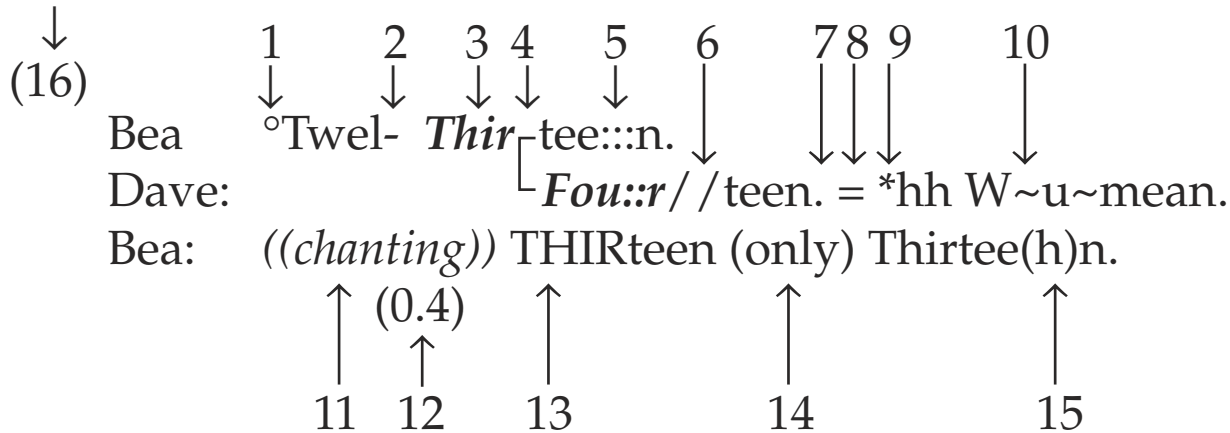
Ruth: [(Five day)=

=stop smoking (pla:n) ten doll'rs.

Bob: *hh But this::



Example Number

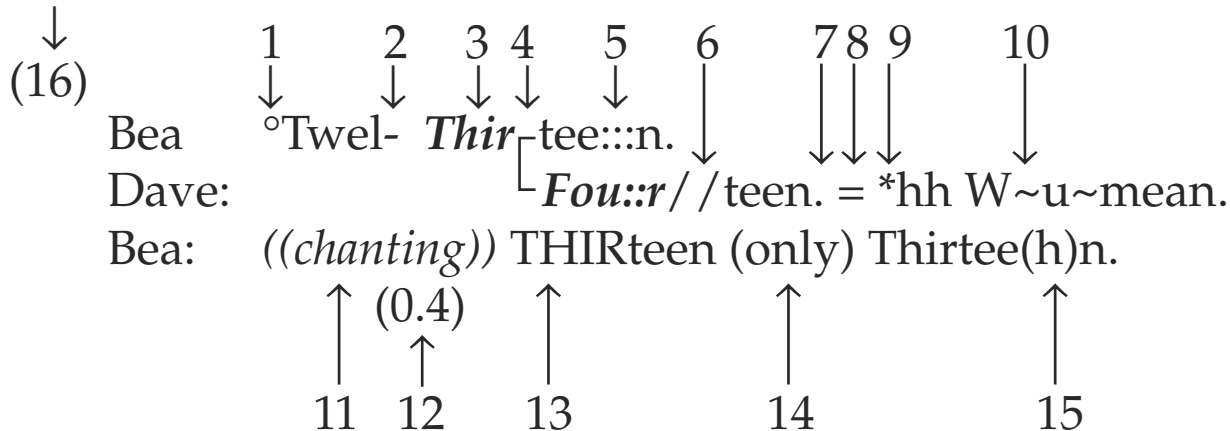


1. **Low Volume.** A degree sign indicates that talk it precedes is low in volume.
2. **Cut-off:** A dash marks a sudden cut-off of the current sound. Here, instead of bringing the word “twelve” to completion, Bea interrupts it in mid course.
3. **Bold Italics** indicate some form of emphasis, which may be signalled by changes in pitch and/or amplitude. (Jefferson used underlining).

From Marjorie Harness Goodwin's *He-Said-She-Said: Talk as Social Organization Among Black Children* (1990) Indiana University Press, pp. 25-26.

Transcription system developed by Gail Jefferson and described in Sacks, Schegloff and Jefferson 1974 "A Simplest Systematics for the Organization of Turn-Taking for Conversation", *Language* 50: 731-733.

Example Number

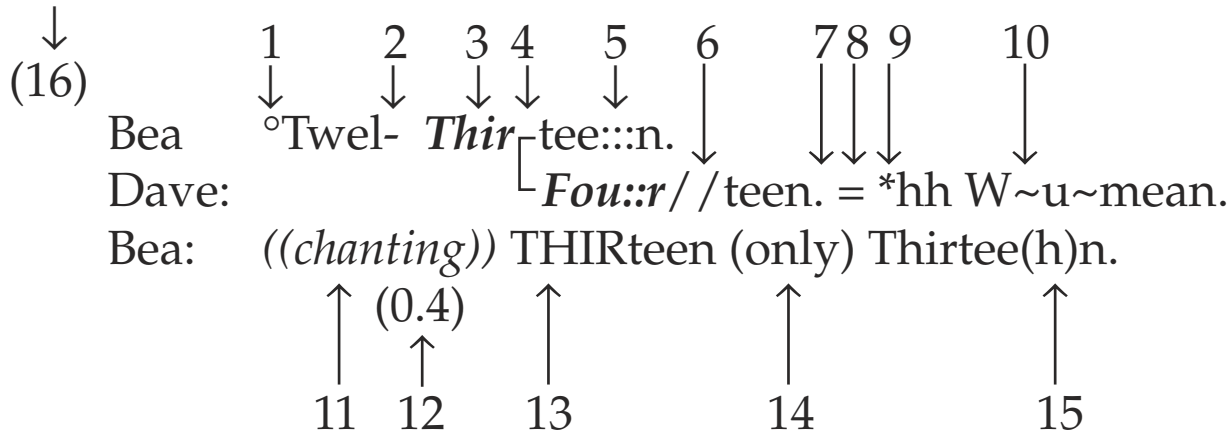


4. **Overlap Bracket:** A left bracket marks the point at which the current talk is overlapped by other talk. Thus Dave's "**Fou::r**teen" begins during the last syllable of Bea's "**Thirteen**."

Two speakers beginning to speak simultaneously are shown by a left bracket at the beginning of a line.

5. **Lengthening:** Colons indicate that the sound immediately preceding has been noticeably lengthened.
6. **Overlap Slashes:** Double slashes provide an alternative method of marking overlap. When they are used the overlapping talk is not indented to the point of overlap. Here Bea's last line begins just after the "**Fou::r**" in Dave's "**Fou::r**teen."

Example Number



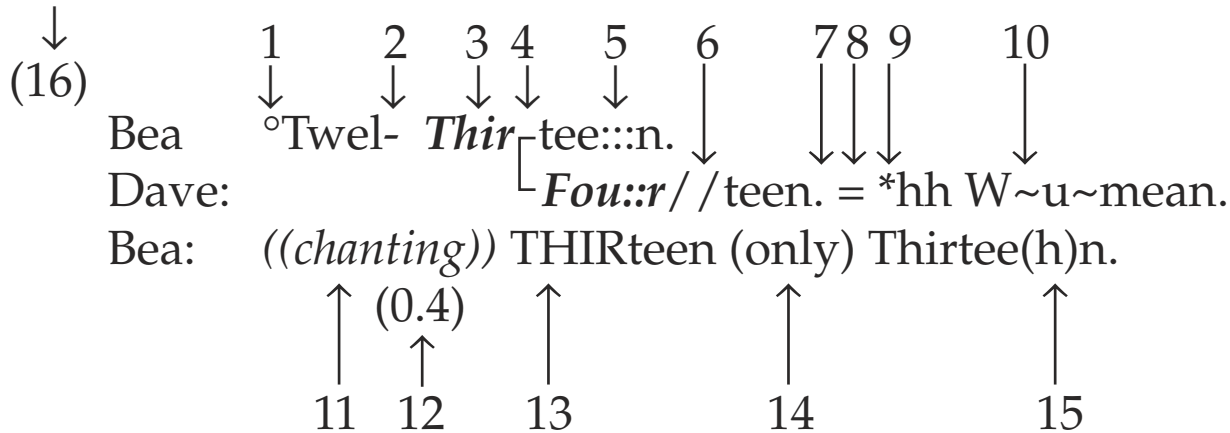
7. **Intonation.** Punctuation symbols are used to mark intonation changes rather than as grammatical symbols.

- A period indicates a falling contour.
- A question mark indicates a raising contour.
- A comma indicates a falling-rising contour.

8. **Latching:** The equal sign indicates “latching”; there is no interval between the end of a prior turn and the start of a next piece of talk.

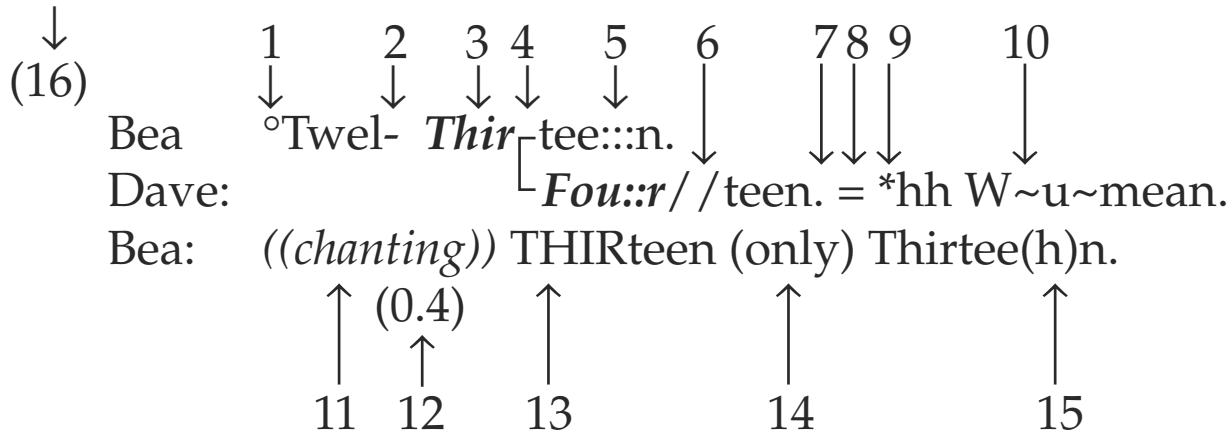
9. **Inbreath:** A series of *h*'s preceded by an asterisk marks an inbreath. Without the asterisk the *h*'s mark an outbreath.

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10. **Rapid Speech:** Tildes indicate that speech is slurred together because it is spoken rapidly.
11. **Comments:** Double parentheses enclose material that is not part of the talk being transcribed, for example, a comment by the transcriber that the talk was spoken in some special way.
12. **Silence:** Numbers in parentheses mark silences in seconds and tenths of seconds.
13. **Increased Volume.** Capitals indicate increased volume.

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14. **Problematic Hearing:** Material in parentheses indicates a hearing that the transcriber was uncertain about.
15. **Breathiness, Laughter:** An *h* in parentheses indicates plosive aspiration which could result from events such as breathiness, laughter, or crying.