Midterm project

1. Transcription: North American English [60 points]

Go to http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_pink_on_motivation.html and find the point at 1:50 where he says the following sentences. Transcribe this section into IPA, as he pronounces it (phonemic transcription). Find the interactive transcript below to navigate and repeatedly go over sentences. For multi-syllabic words, mark the primary lexical stress with an acute accent (e.g., /bláhblah yádayada/).

So, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, take a look at this. This is called the candle problem. Some of you might have seen this before. It's created in 1945 by a psychologist named Karl Duncker. Karl Duncker created this experiment that is used in a whole variety of experiments in behavioral science. And here's how it works. Suppose I'm the experimenter. I bring you into a room. I give you a candle, some thumbtacks and some matches. And I say to you, "Your job is to attach the candle to the wall so the wax doesn't drip onto the table." Now what would you do?

Now many people begin trying to thumbtack the candle to the wall. Doesn't work. Somebody, some people -- and I saw somebody kind of make the motion over here -- some people have a great idea where they light the match, melt the side of the candle, try to adhere it to the wall. It's an awesome idea. Doesn't work. And eventually, after five or 10 minutes, most people figure out the solution, which you can see here. The key is to overcome what's called functional fixedness. You look at that box and you see it only as a receptacle for the tacks. But it can also have this other function, as a platform for the candle. The candle problem.

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1 Or go to TED.com and search for Daniel Pink, and find the video on motivation. Right under the video is an interactive transcript; clicking on any place in the text takes you to the corresponding point in the video.
2. Transcription: British English [40 points]

Go to www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/ken_robinson_says_schools_killCreativity.html\(^2\). Find the point at 11:05 where he says the following sentences. Transcribe this section into IPA, as he pronounces it (phonemic transcription). Find the interactive transcript below to navigate and repeatedly go over sentences. For multi-syllabic words, mark the primary lexical stress.

Now our education system is predicated on the idea of academic ability. And there's a reason. The whole system was invented – around the world, there were no public systems of education, really, before the 19th century. They all came into being to meet the needs of industrialism. So the hierarchy is rooted on two ideas. Number one, that the most useful subjects for work are at the top. So you were probably steered benignly away from things at school when you were a kid, things you liked, on the grounds that you would never get a job doing that. Is that right? Don't do music, you're not going to be a musician; don't do art, you won't be an artist. Benign advice -- now, profoundly mistaken. The whole world is engulfed in a revolution. And the second is academic ability, which has really come to dominate our view of intelligence, because the universities designed the system in their image. If you think of it, the whole system of public education around the world is a protracted process of university entrance. And the consequence is that many highly talented, brilliant, creative people think they're not, because the thing they were good at at school wasn't valued, or was actually stigmatized. And I think we can't afford to go on that way.

Notes

1. It is not necessary to complete all the above paragraphs. This will be graded primarily on accuracy and effort, and secondarily on the amount completed.

2. This is a pair or group project (2-3 persons per group). Each group should submit one write-up by email or a hand-written hard copy, with all members’ names on it. A hand-written version would probably be easier – you can leave it on my desk or in my mailbox in the TESOL office.

3. If you really want to type IPA and send it electronically, I suggest using an online IPA input program [http://ipa.typeit.org/full\(^\_\)], then copying and pasting it into a text document.

4. See the IPA worksheet from 26 Oct. for guidelines about allowed IPA substitutions; use the correct symbols for the lax vowels: /\(i/\) for the front high lax vowel, and something like /\(u/\) or /\(u/\) for the back high lax vowel.

5. The midterm is due by Wednesday night, 31 October 2012. If emailed, it should be emailed to both my email addresses:

   kentlee7@gmail.com
   kentlee7@naver.com

\(^2\) Or go to www.ted.com, search for Ken Robinson, and go to the talk entitled ‘(Ken Robinson says) schools kill creativity. Right under the video is an interactive transcript; clicking on any place in the text takes you to the corresponding point in the video.