


## SIMPLE ALLOPHONIC DIFFERENCES

The English words “pill” and “lip” have the same phonemes in reverse order. However, it is not possible to create one from the other by time-reversal (i.e. like running a tape backwards).

This is most obvious for the /l/ sounds: dark in “pill” and light in “lip”. The /p/ sounds are also different (aspirated in “pill” and unreleased in “lip”), though this does not come out so clearly in the time-reversed versions.

Click on the word to hear the sound, on  to open the WAV file and on “<sona>” to see the corresponding sonagram.

pill



<sona>

lip



<sona>

pill (reversed)



<sona>

lip (reversed)



<sona>

(See Vowels and Consonants, p.72, recording 8.1, for a similar example)