

Hall & Wong
Ling 500
Winter 2006

Homework 1: Installing Praat

Praat is the Dutch word for “talk, tattle, or boasting” and is also the name of a free phonetics manipulation program that we will be using a lot in this class. It was written and is updated by Paul Boersma and David Weenink of the Institute of Phonetic Sciences at the University of Amsterdam.

Your first homework assignment involves finding a computer that you feel comfortable using (your own, one in a computer lab at school, etc.) and downloading Praat onto it so that you can use it. You need to make sure that this is a computer that you can listen to sound files on, either directly from the computer’s speakers or through headphones.

To download Praat:

1. Go to the Praat website at <http://www.praat.org>
2. Download the version of Praat appropriate for your operating system by clicking the appropriate link (e.g. “Windows”) at the top left of the Praat main page and following the directions.
3. Install Praat on your computer. This is generally done by clicking on the file that has been downloaded and telling the installer program where you want to store Praat.

Once you have downloaded Praat, go to the class website and download the following sound file: “homework1.wav.” Use this file and Praat to answer the following questions (to be turned in on Friday):

1. What two windows pop up when you open Praat?
2. Use the “Read” menu and choose “Read from file...” to open the sound file you downloaded (homework1.wav). Where does it appear in Praat?
3. Press the “Play” button in the Objects window. What does the sound file say?
4. Press the “Edit” button in the Objects window. What happens?
5. Try to do one interesting thing in Praat – it can be as simple as renaming the file or as complex as synthesizing a new pitch track: anything you want! Describe what you did and how you did it.

If you have difficulty downloading Praat or getting it to work, e-mail us as soon as possible to get some help (kchall@ling.osu.edu and pwong@ling.osu.edu).