

Some hints for HW assignments (from things that have come up in prior years):

1. Think carefully about what you say. For example:

If a child shouldn't have acquired a sound yet, then the child isn't delayed if he/she doesn't have it.

If a child is acquiring things earlier or in an unusual order, you can't turn around and then say that the child is developing typically.

If a child doesn't use a particular sound, word, or morpheme, it doesn't mean the child is delayed (even if they should have it by that age). After all, it may just be that they didn't have the opportunity to use that word/sound/morpheme. If the child said something where that sound/word/morpheme was required, and skipped it, that's one thing. But if the child just never bothered to talk about dragons, you can't presume that they don't know the word.

That is, the expectation in these assignments is that you think about how you interpret things, rather than just assuming that you're supposed to find a particular pattern.

2. Remember that spelling and phonology are different. There is no "t" in th, no "s" in sh, no "c" in ch, and no "h" in any of them. Nor is there any "h" in the word "oh". And "sh", "th" and "ng" are not clusters.

3. There is a difference between something being present and something being mastered. In particular, Brown was talking about mastery – a morpheme being present 80% of the time when required. You would expect a morpheme to be present SOME of the time before it is mastered (so showing it occasionally earlier than that is not surprising). And to examine mastery, you can't just look at how often they say it – rather, you have to look at how often it is required but not said.

4. Not all –ings are the same, and not all –s are the same. So, "something" is not a progressive –ing ending (yesterday I somethed?), "Goldilocks" is not plural (one Goldilock, two Goldilocks?). For that matter, you need to keep straight when –s is used as a plural (cats, dogs), possessive (mom's shirt), 3rd person singular verb ending (she runs, he walks), contractible copula (It's grey), or contractible auxiliary (It's jumping). And contractible copulas and auxiliaries does not refer to all contractions.

5. There are errors in the transcripts. You need to base your findings on the audio files, not the transcripts. The transcripts are there to provide assistance, but they don't substitute for listening.

GOOD LUCK!