

International Phonetic Alphabet

Index to number references and vowel / consonant sounds

Learn the phonetic symbols, vowel and consonant sounds. Check the websites below for pronunciation.

<http://www.antimoon.com/how/pronunc-soundsipa.htm>

http://www.stuff.co.uk/calcul_nd.htm

Vowel Phonemes			Consonant Phonemes		
01	/ɪ/	P <u>it</u>	21	/p/	<u>p</u> it
02	/e/	pe <u>t</u>	22	/b/	<u>b</u> it
03	/æ/	pa <u>t</u>	23	/t/	<u>t</u> ime
04	/ɒ/	po <u>t</u>	24	/d/	<u>d</u> oor
05	/ʌ/	lu <u>ck</u>	25	/k/	<u>c</u> at
06	/ʊ/	g <u>oo</u> d	26	/g/	g <u>e</u> t
07	/ə/	<u>a</u> go	27	/f/	<u>f</u> an
08	/i:/	me <u>a</u> t	28	/v/	<u>v</u> an
09	/ɑ:/	<u>c</u> ar	29	/θ/	<u>th</u> ink
10	/ɔ:/	do <u>o</u> r	30	/ð/	<u>th</u> at
11	/ɜ:/	g <u>ir</u> l	31	/s/	<u>s</u> end

12	/u:/	<u>to</u> o	32	/z/	z <u>ip</u>
13	/eɪ/	d <u>ay</u>	33	/m/	<u>m</u> an
14	/aɪ/	sk <u>y</u>	34	/n/	<u>n</u> ice
15	/ɔɪ/	b <u>oy</u>	35	/ŋ/	ri <u>ng</u>
16	/iə/	b <u>ee</u> r	36	/l/	<u>l</u> eg
17	/eə/	b <u>ea</u> r	37	/r/	<u>r</u> at
18	/ʊə/	<u>to</u> ur	38	/w/	<u>w</u> et
19	/əʊ/	g <u>o</u>	39	/h/	<u>h</u> at
20	/aʊ/	<u>co</u> w	40	/j/	ye <u>t</u>
			41	/ʃ/	<u>sh</u> op
			42	/ʒ/	lei <u>s</u> ure
			43	/tʃ/	<u>ch</u> op
			44	/dʒ/	<u>j</u> ump

Phonetic Alphabet

This table contains all the sounds used in the English language. For each sound, it gives:

- The symbol in the **IPA** — the International Phonetic Alphabet, used for writing [phonetic transcription](#).
- Two English **words** which use the sound. The underline shows where the sound is heard.
- The links labeled **Amer** and **Brit** play sound files (in [mp3 format](#)) where the words are [pronounced](#) in American and British English. The British version is given only where it is very different from the American version.
- If you want to speak good English, you have to know how to pronounce each of these sounds. You can learn more about each sound through the "**more**" link.

vowels		consonants	
IPA	words	IPA	words
ʌ	cup, l <u>uck</u>	b	b <u>ad</u> , lab <u>u</u>
a:	arm, f <u>a</u> ther	d	d <u>id</u> , lad <u>y</u>
æ	cat, bl <u>a</u> ck	f	f <u>in</u> d, if
ə	aw <u>a</u> y, cinem <u>a</u>	g	g <u>iv</u> e, fl <u>a</u> g
e	met, b <u>e</u> d	h	h <u>ow</u> , h <u>ell</u> o
ɜ:	t <u>ur</u> n, le <u>ar</u> n	j	y <u>e</u> s, y <u>ell</u> ow
ɪ	h <u>i</u> t, sitt <u>i</u> ng	k	cat, b <u>ac</u> k
i:	see, h <u>ea</u> t	l	l <u>eg</u> , l <u>itt</u> le
ɒ	h <u>o</u> t, r <u>oc</u> k	m	m <u>an</u> , le <u>m</u> on
ɔ:	call, f <u>ou</u> r	n	n <u>o</u> , t <u>en</u>
ʊ	put, c <u>ou</u> ld	ŋ	s <u>in</u> g, f <u>in</u> ger
u:	blue, f <u>oo</u> d	p	p <u>et</u> , m <u>a</u> p
aɪ	f <u>i</u> ve, e <u>y</u> e	r	r <u>ed</u> , t <u>ry</u>
aʊ	n <u>ow</u> , <u>ou</u> t	s	s <u>un</u> , m <u>iss</u>
əʊ	g <u>o</u> , h <u>o</u> me	ʃ	s <u>he</u> , cr <u>ash</u>
ea	wh <u>er</u> e, <u>air</u>	t	t <u>ea</u> , get <u>ti</u> ng
eɪ	s <u>ay</u> , e <u>igh</u> t	tʃ	ch <u>ec</u> k, ch <u>ur</u> ch
ɪə	n <u>ear</u> , h <u>er</u> e	θ	th <u>in</u> k, b <u>oth</u>
ɔɪ	b <u>oy</u> , j <u>oi</u> n	ð	th <u>is</u> , m <u>oth</u> er
ʊə	p <u>ure</u> , t <u>our</u> ist	v	v <u>oic</u> e, f <u>iv</u> e
		w	w <u>et</u> , w <u>in</u> dow

z	zoo, lazy
ʒ	pleasure, vision
dʒ	just, large

Optional *r*

Many dictionaries use another symbol which looks like this: **ɹ**. This is not a sound — it is a short way of saying that an **r** should be pronounced only in American English. No **ɹ** is heard in British English.

For example, if you write that the pronunciation of *bar* is **/bɑ:ɹ/**, you mean that it is **/bɑ:r/** in American English, and **/bɑ:/** in British English.

Syllabic *l* and *n*

The symbols **əl** and **ən** show that the consonant **l** or **n** is pronounced as a separate syllable. Before the **l** or **n**, there is a very small vowel, which usually is even shorter than an **ə** sound.

You can hear the syllabic **l** in words like *little* **/ˈlɪtəl/** and *uncle* **/ˈʌŋkəl/**. The syllabic **n** can be heard in *written* **/ˈrɪtən/** and *listen* **/ˈlɪsn/**.

Instead of the **ə** symbol, some dictionaries simply give an **l** or **n**, so that *little* is transcribed **/ˈlɪtl/**. Other dictionaries use the **ə** symbol (**/ˈlɪtəl/**).

The apostrophe (word stress)

Most dictionaries use the apostrophe symbol (**'**) to show word stress. Usually, the apostrophe is placed before the stressed syllable in a word. [Word stress](#) is explained in our article about phonetic transcription.