

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/	ti <u>m</u> e
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/	ge <u>t</u>
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:/	gi <u>r</u> l	31	/s/	<u>s</u> end

12	/u:/	<u>too</u>	32	/z/	<u>zip</u>
13	/eɪ/	<u>day</u>	33	/m/	<u>man</u>
14	/aɪ/	sky <u>y</u>	34	/n/	<u>nice</u>
15	/ɔɪ/	<u>boy</u>	35	/ŋ/	ring <u>g</u>
16	/ɪə/	<u>beer</u>	36	/l/	<u>leg</u>
17	/eə/	<u>bear</u>	37	/r/	<u>rat</u>
18	/ʊə/	<u>tour</u>	38	/w/	<u>wet</u>
19	/əʊ/	g <u>o</u>	39	/h/	<u>hat</u>
20	/aʊ/	<u>cow</u>	40	/j/	yet
			41	/ʃ/	<u>shop</u>
			42	/ʒ/	lei <u>s</u> ure
			43	/tʃ/	<u>chop</u>
			44	/dʒ/	<u>jump</u>

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, luck	b	bad, lab
a:	arm, father	d	did, lady
æ	cat, black	f	find, if
ə	away, cinema	g	give, flag
e	met, bed	h	how, hello
ɜ:	turn, learn	j	yes, yellow
ɪ	hit, sitting	k	cat, back
i:	see, heat	l	leg, little
ɒ	hot, rock	m	man, lemon
ɔ:	call, four	n	no, ten
u	put, could	ŋ	sing, finger
u:	blue, food	p	pet, map
aɪ	five, eye	r	red, try
aʊ	now, out	s	sun, miss
əʊ	go, home	ʃ	she, crash
eə	where, air	t	tea, getting
eɪ	say, eight	tʃ	check, church
ɪə	near, here	θ	think, both
ɔɪ	boy, join	ð	this, mother
ʊə	pure, tourist	v	voice, five
		w	wet, window

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* /'lɪtəl/ and *uncle* /'ʌŋkəl/. The syllabic **n** can be heard in *written* /'rɪtən/ and *listen* /'lɪsən/.

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

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.