

THE SOUNDS IN ENGLISH

*Phonetic
Symbol*

Examples

VOWELS

i:	me, tree, three, he, people, the ¹
i	ship, it, ticket, this, king
e	bed, pen, egg, yes, men, well
æ	man, that, am, and, Paris, can, Spanish
ɑ:	past, dark, arm, are, car, hard
ɒ	not, lot, wash, song, from, rock, coffee
ɔ:	all, small, ball, or, forty, morning
u	put, full, look, good, foot, book
u:	who, move, noon, blue, do, too
ʌ	up, cup, much, sun, some, but
ə:	her, Thursday, burn, third, thirteen, worth, work
ə	a, the ² , under, father, address, servant, Saturday

DIPHTHONGS

ei	say, baby, train, plate, table, waiter, Spain
ou	no, smoke, those, motor, only, Poland, hotel
ai	five, nine, ice, eye, my, side
au	how, count, flower, cloud, hour, now
ɔi	boy, noise, boil, voice
iə	dear, clear, beer, really, ear
ɛə	where, there, their, chair, hair, care
ɔɔ ³	four, door, your, more, floor
ʊə	sure, poor

¹ Strong form.

² Weak form.

³ Many speakers of Standard English do not use this sound. They use, instead, [ɔ:].

Phonetic
Symbol

Examples

CONSONANTS

p	pen, pay, people, pull, open, help
b	be, bath, boy, bad, husband, bed, beef
t	train, tree, sit, tea, table, hotel, stop
d	door, day, sad, kind, desk, Friday, word
k	cold, back, clock, car, class, king
g	gold, bag, girl, dog, good, go, egg-cup
f	fine, far, safe, flower, fifteen, after
v	very, save, vegetable, seven, never
θ	thank, thick, thin, nothing, think, twentieth
ð	then, that, there, weather, with, together
s	so, sit, sleep, thinks, place, cigarette
z	zero, has, knives, comes, plays, noise
ʃ	ship, sharp, fish, English, short
ʒ	pleasure, measure
tʃ	Charles, each, Richard, much
dʒ	John, judge, age, Japan, language
h	his, happy, here, help, unhappy
m	man, make, many, my, swim
n	name, near, then, finish
ŋ	sing, thing, working, English, king
r	red, around, very, rich, every, room
l	leave, long, full, pull, greatly, last
w	will, work, away, when, window, wash
j	yellow, year, you, young, yes, piano

THE ENGLISH ALPHABET

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
ei	bi:	si:	di:	i:	ef	dʒi:	eitʃ	ai	dʒei	kei	el	em
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
en	ou	pi:	kju:	ɑ:(r)	es	ti:	ju:	vi:	'dʌblju	eks	wai	zed