

Index to number references and vowel / consonant sounds

Vowel Phonemes			Consonant Phonemes		
01	/ɪ/	p <u>ī</u> t	21	/p/	<i>p</i> it
02	/e/	p <u>e</u> t	22	/b/	<u>b</u> it
03	/æ/	p <u>a</u> t	23	/t/	<u>t</u> ime
04	/ɒ/	p <u>o</u> t	24	/d/	<u>d</u> oor
05	/ʌ/	<u>l</u> uck	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/	<u>z</u> ip
13	/eɪ/	<u>da</u> y	33	/m/	<u>m</u> an
14	/aɪ/	<u>sk</u> y	34	/n/	<u>n</u> ice
15	/ɔɪ/	<u>bo</u> y	35	/ŋ/	<u>ri</u> ng
16	/ɪə/	<u>be</u> er	36	/l/	<u>l</u> eg
17	/eə/	<u>be</u> ar	37	/r/	<u>r</u> at
18	/ʊə/	<u>to</u> ur	38	/w/	<u>w</u> et
19	/əʊ/	<u>g</u> o	39	/h/	<u>h</u> at
20	/aʊ/	<u>co</u> w	40	/j/	<u>y</u> et
			41	/ʃ/	<u>sh</u> op
			42	/ʒ/	<u>le</u> isure
			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
I w P or A ds	I P A w or ds
ʌ cup	b bad,
a: arm	d did, l
æ cat,	f find,
a awa	g give,
cine	h how,
e met	j yes, :
ɜ: turn	k cat, t

	hit, l	leg, l
i:	see, m	man, m
ɒ	hot, n	no, t
ɔ:	call, ŋ	sing, ŋ
ʊ	put, p	pet, r
u:	blue, r	red, t
aɪ	five, s	sun, s
aʊ	now, f	she, v
əʊ	go, t	tea, ʃ
ea	wheel, tʃ	check, k
eɪ	say, j	church, tʃ
ɪə	near, θ	think, k
ɔɪ	boy, ð	this, θ
ʊə	pure, v	voice, s
	tour, w	wet, t
		zoo, z

3	pleas <u>ɪ</u> ! vis <u>i</u> or
dʒ	<u>ʃ</u> ust, !

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

You can hear the syllabic ɹ in words like little /'lɪtəl/ and uncle /ˈʌŋkəl/. The syllabic n can be heard in written /'rɪtən/ and listen /'lɪsən/.

Instead of the ə symbol, some dictionaries simply give an ɹ or n, so that *little* is transcribed /'lɪtɪ/. 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.

SUGAR

GROW

CHANGE

SHOWER