The sounds of English



Listen and repeat. Pay attention to the phonetic transcription (between slashes //).

A /eɪ/
B /biː/
C /siː/
D /diː/
E /iː/
F /ef/
G /dʒiː/
H /eɪtʃ/
I /aɪ/
J /dʒeɪ/
K /keɪ/
L /el/
M /em/
N /en/
O /əʊ/
P /piː/
Q /kjuː/
R /ɑː/
S /es/
T /tiː/
U /juː/
V /viː/
W /ˈdʌbəljuː/
X /eks/
Y /waɪ/
Z /zed/ 
/ziː/ 

In the following section, you have the symbols used by the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet), and some examples. Study them!

Short vowels

e Went, intend, send letter.
æ Cat, hand, nap, flat, have.
ʌ Fun, love, money, London.
ʊ Put, look, should, cook, book, look.
ɒ Rob, top, watch, squat, sausage.
ə Alive, again, mother.

Long vowels

iː Need, beat, team.
ɜː Nurse, heard, third, turn.
ɔː Talk, law, bored, yawn.
uː Boot, lose, gloomy, fruit, chew.
ɑː Fast, car, hard, bath.

Diphthongs

ɪə Near, ear, clear, tear, beer, fear
eə Hair, there, care, pear
eɪ Face, space, rain, case, eight
ɔɪ Joy, employ, toy oyster.
aɪ My, sight, pride, kind, flight
əʊ No, don't, stones, alone, hole.
aʊ Mouth, house, brown, cow, out.

Consonants

p Pin, cap, purpose, pause.
b Bag, bubble, build, robe.
t Time, train, tree, late.
d Door, day, drive, down, feed.
k Cash, quick, cricket, sock.
g Girl, green, grass, flag.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Consonants

f Full, Friday, fish, knife.

v Vest, village, view, cave.

θ Three (3), think, mouth, earth

ð There, those, brothers, others.

z Zoo, crazy, lazy, zigzag, nose

ʃ Shirt, rush, shop, cash.

ʒ Television, delusion, casual.

h High, help, hello.

m Room, mother, mad, more.

n Now, nobody, knew, turn.

ŋ King, thing, song, swimming.

r Road, roses, river, ring, ride.

j Yellow, tune, yesterday, university.

w Wall, walk, wine, world.

l Leap, long, pill, cold, chill, melt.

ʧ Choose, cheese, church, watch.

ʤ Joy, juggle, juice, stage.

Match the audio with the phonetic transcription by writing the number next to it, and then, draw a line to the corresponding image.

1 /ˈpɪləʊ/

2 /ˌjuːnəˈvɜːsəti/

3 /rəˈkuːn/

4 /aʊl/

5 /breθ/

6 /ˈʤeli/

7 /baɪˈɒlədʒi/















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