

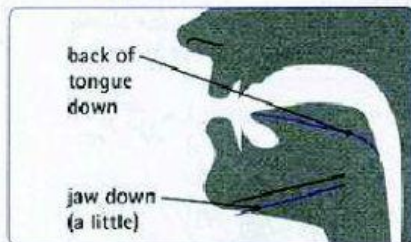
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Car, care

The vowel sounds /ɑ:(r)/ and /eə(r)/

In many accents in England, the letter R is not pronounced after a vowel. In other places, the R is pronounced, for example in most parts of North America. But in both cases, the letter R makes the vowel before it sound different. If the vowel is A, we usually get the vowel sounds in *car* /ɑ:(r)/ or *care* /eə(r)/.

- A**
- A62a • Listen to the sound /ɑ:(r)/. Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make this long vowel sound.
 - A62b • Listen to the target sound /ɑ:(r)/ in the words below and compare it with the words on each side.
 - A62c • Then listen and repeat the examples of the target sound.



target /ɑ:(r)/		
fur	far	four
bore	bar	bear
hurt	heart	hate
much	march	match

Examples

calm card cart
star starve start
harm halve half

"It's hard to park a car in a dark car park."

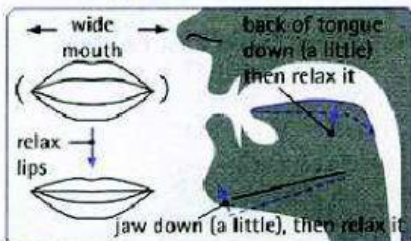
! Note: Sometimes we get the sound /ɑ:(r)/ before L too.

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Important for listening

- Listen to the sound with R pronounced, as in North America:
far bar heart march card star start charm chart
- In South East England, the letter A followed by S, F, TH, N is often pronounced /ɑ:(r)/:
ask fast after path bath dance aunt
- In North America, the single letter O is pronounced /ɑ:(r)/: God, strong, lock, top. (See Unit 16.)

- B**
- A64a • Listen to the sound /eə(r)/. Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make this sound.
 - A64b • Listen to the target sound /eə(r)/ in the words below and compare it with the words on each side.
 - A64c • Then listen and repeat the examples of the target sound.



target /eə(r)/		
bar	bear	beer
shy	share	sure
dead	dared	died
stars	stairs	stays

Examples

square squares
where where's
fair fairly

"Sarah and Mary share their pears fairly."

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Important for listening

Different accents: Listen to the sound with the R pronounced, as in North America:
bear share dared stairs square where cared fairly

C

Spelling

	frequently	sometimes
/ɑ:(r)/	AR (<i>car</i>) AL (<i>half</i>)	EAR, (<i>heart</i>) A (<i>ask, path, aunt</i>): South East English accent
/eə(r)/	ARE (<i>care</i>), AIR (<i>fair</i>) EAR (<i>bear</i>), ERE (<i>where</i>)	