

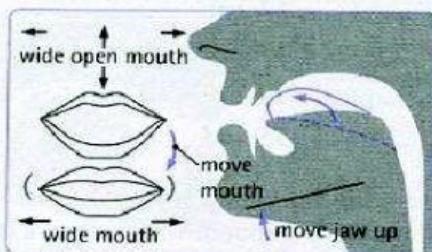
# Wine, win

## The vowel sounds /aɪ/ and /ɪ/

When you say the letters of the alphabet, I has the long vowel sound /aɪ/. You hear this sound in the word *wine*. But the letter I is also pronounced as the short vowel sound /ɪ/, as in the word *win*.

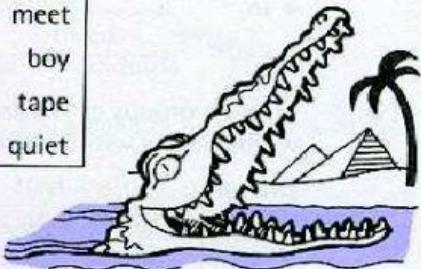
A

A48a • Listen to the sound /aɪ/. Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make this long vowel sound.  
 A48b • Listen to the target sound /aɪ/ in the words below and compare it with the words on each side.



target /aɪ/

mate	might	meet
bay	buy	boy
tip	type	tape
quit	quite	quiet



"Nile crocodiles have the widest smiles."

A48c

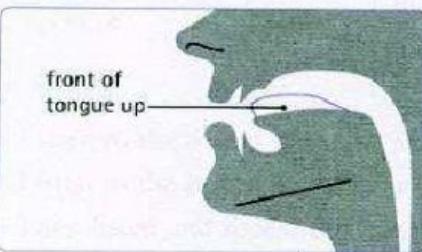
• Listen and repeat these examples of the target sound.  
 why wide wife  
 buy buys bike  
 fly flies flight

Important  
for listening

When the long I is before R or L, many speakers put the vowel /e/ between them. So, for example, *hire* sounds like *higher*. Here are some more examples: *fire* *tyre* *child* *white* *smile* *style* *file* *wild*.

B

A49a • Listen to the sound /ɪ/. Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make this short vowel sound.  
 A49b • Listen to the target sound /ɪ/ in the words below and compare it with the words on each side.



target /ɪ/

peak	pick	pack
wheel	will	while
set	sit	sat
feet	fit	fat



"Tim bit a bit of Kitty's biscuit."

A49c

• Listen and repeat these examples of the target sound.  
 king kid kit  
 pink pig pick  
 till fish fit

C

### Spelling

	frequently	sometimes	notes
/aɪ/	I-E ( <i>smile</i> ), IE ( <i>die</i> ) Y ( <i>cry</i> )	IGH ( <i>high</i> ), UY ( <i>buy</i> )	These spellings are <i>not always</i> pronounced /aɪ/ ( <i>fridge</i> , <i>city</i> , <i>friend</i> ).
/ɪ/	I ( <i>win</i> )	Y ( <i>gym</i> )	The sound /ɪ/ is also a weak vowel (see Unit 7), and can have various spellings in an unstressed syllable ( <i>needed</i> , <i>cities</i> , <i>village</i> ). If there is an R after the letter I (and the R does not have a vowel after it), I has a different pronunciation. (See Unit 19.)