

14

Car, care

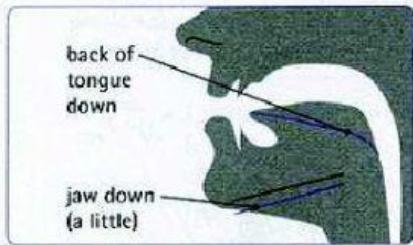
The vowel sounds /ɑ:(r)/ and /eə(r)/

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:/ or *care* /ə:/.

A

A62a

- Listen to the sound /ɑ:/. Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make this long vowel sound.
- Listen to the target sound /ɑ:/ in the words below and compare it with the words on each side.
- Then listen and repeat the examples of the target sound.



target /ɑ:/

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:/ before L too.

A63

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:/:
ask fast after path bath dance aunt
- In North America, the single letter O is pronounced /ɑ:/: *God, strong, lock, top*. (See Unit 16.)

B

A64a

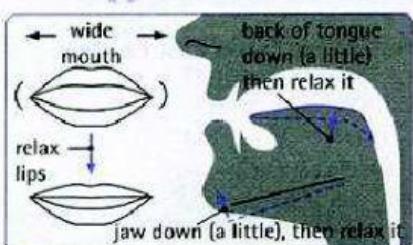
- Listen to the sound /eə/. Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make this sound.

A64b

- Listen to the target sound /eə/ 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/

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."

A65

Important for listening

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

C

Spelling

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