

The sounds of English



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

A /eɪ/	J /dʒeɪ/	S /es/
B /bi:/	K /keɪ/	T /ti:/
C /si:/	L /el/	U /ju:/
D /di:/	M /em/	V /vi:/
E /i:/	N /en/	W /'dʌbəlju:/
F /ef/	O /əʊ/	X /eks/
G /dʒi:/	P /pi:/	Y /waɪ/
H /ertʃ/	Q /kju:/	Z /zed/ 
I /aɪ/	R /ɑ:/	/zi:/ 

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.

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.

Long vowels

- i:** Need, beat, team.
- ɜ:** Nurse, heard, third, turn.
- ɔ:** Talk, law, bored, yawn.
- u:** Boot, lose, gloomy, fruit, chew.
- ɑ:** Fast, car, hard, bath.

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.

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.

tʃ Choose, cheese, church, watch.

dʒ 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 /'pɪləʊ/



2 /,ju:nə'vɜ:səti/



3 /rə'ku:n/



4 /aʊl/



5 /breθ/



6 /'dʒeli/



7 /baɪ'ələdʒi/

