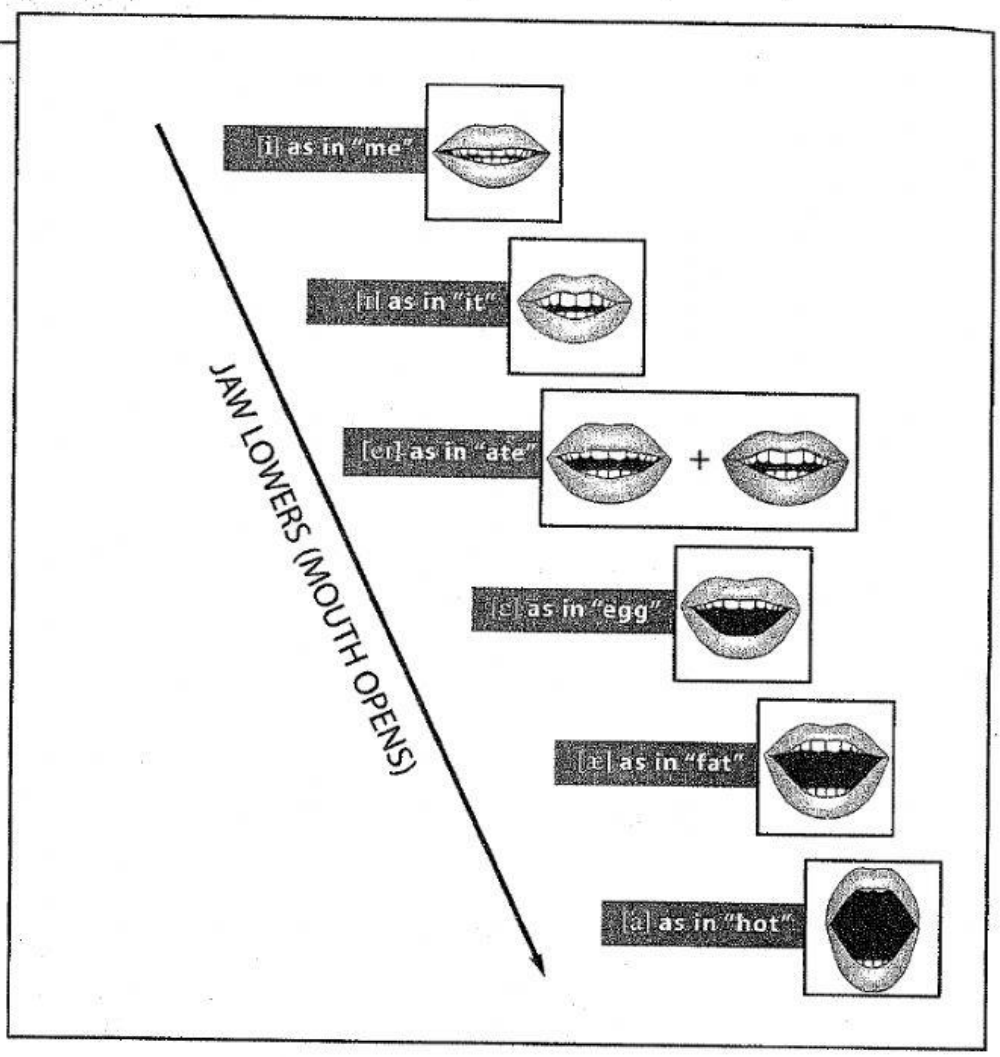
PRONOUNCING FRONT VOWELS



You can see in the pictures how the jaw moves from a closed position to an open one during pronunciation of the vowel sequence [i], [ɪ], [eɪ], [ɛ], [æ], [a]. Becoming familiar with this progression and understanding the relationship of one vowel to another will help you with your pronunciation of the vowels.

- The phonetic symbol [ɪ] represents a sound between [i] and [eɪ]. It is pronounced with the jaw and tongue raised more than for [eɪ], but not as much as for [i].
- The symbol [æ] represents a sound between [ɛ] and [a]. [æ] is pronounced with the jaw open more than for [ɛ] but not as much as for [a].

Refer to these pictures whenever you have difficulty pronouncing any of the vowels. Repeat the sequence [i], [ɪ], [eɪ], [ɛ], [æ], [a] several times. Notice the progressive dropping of your tongue and jaw as you pronounce each sound.

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