

Wine, win

The vowel sounds /aɪ/ and /ɪ/

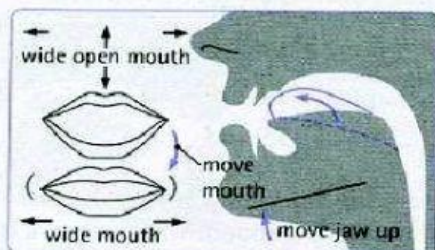
When you say the letters of the alphabet, I has the long vowel sound /aɪ/. You hear this sound in the word *wine*. But the letter I is also pronounced as the short vowel sound /ɪ/, as in the word *win*.

A

A48a

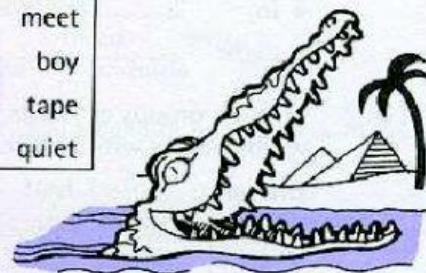
A48b

- Listen to the sound /aɪ/. Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make this long vowel sound.
- 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

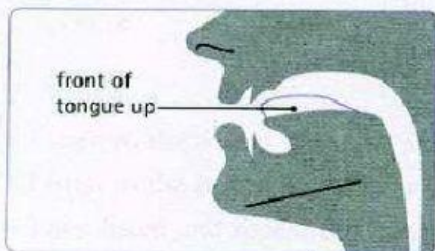
When the long I is before R or L, many speakers put the vowel /ɪ/ between them. So, for example, *hire* sounds like *higher*. Here are some more examples: *fire tyre child white smile style file wild*.

B

A49a

A49b

- Listen to the sound /ɪ/. Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make this short vowel sound.
- 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

A49c

- Listen and repeat these examples of the target sound.

king kid kit
pink pig pick
fill fish fit



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

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</i> always pronounced /aɪ/ (<i>fridge, city, 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, cities, 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.)