

Consonants of Standard American English

The consonants of Standard American English, written with IPA symbols, classified by voicing, place of articulation, and manner of articulation:

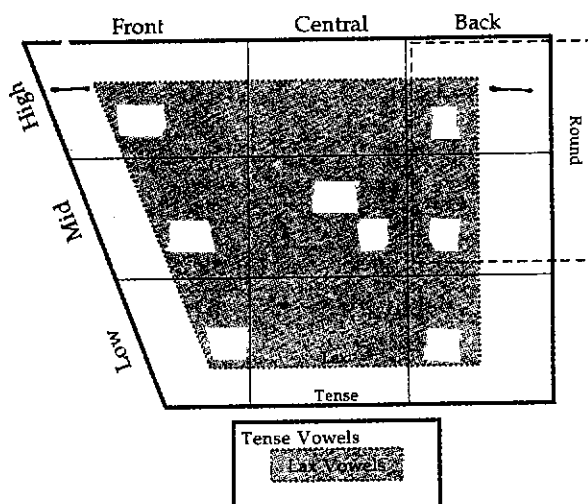
		Place of Articulation						
		Bilabial	Labio-dental	Inter-dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Manner of Articulation	Stop	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced
	Fricative	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced
	Affricate	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced
	Flap	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced
	Nasal	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced
	Lateral Liquid	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced
	Retroflex Liquid	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced
	Glide	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced
	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced

State of the Glottis: Voiceless Voiced

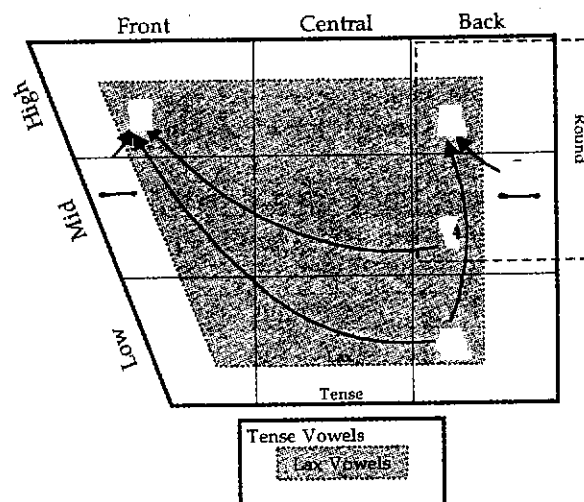
Vowels of Standard American English

The vowels of Standard American English, written with IPA symbols, presented using the traditional American classification system:

Monophthongs:



Diphthongs:



Examples of Phonetic Symbols Found in Standard American English

Note: Because English spelling does not have a one-to-one correspondence with sounds, underlining the letters in example words to show where a sound occurs can be difficult. For example, we have underlined the <ea> in *Leah* to indicate that there is a [j] between the [i] and the [ə]: [lijə]. For each symbol, think carefully about how the sound occurs in the example words.

a. Consonants

i. Non-Syllabic Consonants

Symbol	Sample Words
[p]	pit, tip, spit, hiccough, appear
[b]	ball, globe, amble, brick, bubble
[t]	tag, pat, stick, pterodactyl, stuffed
[d]	dip, card, drop, loved, batted
[k]	kit, scoot, character, critique
[g]	guard, bag, finger, designate, Pittsburgh
[ŋ]	hatrack, Batman
[f]	foot, laugh, philosophy, coffee, carafe
[v]	vest, dove, gravel, anvil, average
[θ]	through, wrath, thistle, ether, teeth
[ð]	the, their, mother, either, teethe
[s]	soap, psychology, packs, descent, peace
[z]	zip, roads, kisses, Xerox, design
[ʃ]	shy, mission, nation, glacial, sure
[ʒ]	measure, vision, azure, casualty, decision
[h]	who, hat, rehash, hole, whole
[tʃ]	choke, match, feature, righteous, constituent
[dʒ]	judge, George, Jell-O, region, residual
[m]	moose, lamb, smack, amnesty, ample
[n]	nap, design, snow, know, mnemonic
[ŋ]	lung, think, finger, singer, ankle
[l]	leaf, feel, Lloyd, mild, applaud
[r]	reef, fear, Harris, prune, carp
[ɹ]	writer, butter, udder, clutter, cuter
[w]	with, swim, mowing, queen, twilight, gooey
[w]	which, where, what, whale, why
[j]	you, beautiful, feud, use, Leah

ii. Syllabic Consonants

Symbol	Sample Words
[m̩]	possum, chasm, Adam, bottomless
[n̩]	button, chicken, lesson, kittenish
[l̩]	little, single, simple, stabilize
[ɹ̩]	ladder, singer, burp, percent

b. Vowels

i. Monophthongs (Simple Vowels)

Symbols	Examples
[i]	beat, we, believe, people, money
[ɪ]	bit, consist, injury, malignant, hymn
[e]	bet, reception, says, guest, bury
[æ]	bat, laugh, anger, comrade, rally
[u]	boot, who, sewer, duty, through
[ʊ]	put, foot, butcher, could, boogie-woogie
[ɔ]	bought, caught, wrong, stalk, core
[ɑ]	pot, father, sergeant, honor, hospital
[ʌ]	but, tough, another, oven
[ə]	among, sofa

ii. Diphthongs (Complex Vowels)

Symbols	Examples
[aɪ]	bite, Stein, aisle, choir, island
[aʊ]	bout, brown, doubt, flower, loud
[ɔɪ]	boy, doily, rejoice, perestroika, annoy
[oʊ]	boat, beau, grow, though, over
[eɪ]	bait, reign, great, they, gauge