

01 Introduction to the phonetic alphabet

Objectives

Learn the fundamentals of phonetic transcription.

To be able to produce and recognise better the 44 English sounds and therefore be better understood

All in short 8 sessions of 20-30min each

Agenda session 1:

01

Why IPA

05

The 44 sounds in English

02

IPA for English

06

The easy sounds

03

Tools

07

Received pronunciation vs accents

04

Phonetic transcription

Why IPA

IPA: International Phonetic Alphabet

To speak a language like a native without learning it

For us: just to know better the different sounds and improve our pronunciation

Or if you want to learn another language!

IPA for English:

44 sounds

IPA for English, 44 sounds:

VOWELS	monophthongs				diphthongs		Phonemic Chart voiced unvoiced	
	i:	ɪ	ʊ	u:	ɪə	eɪ		
	sheep	ship	good	shoot	here	wait		
	e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ	əʊ	
	bed	teacher	bird	door	tourist	boy	show	
	æ	ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ	
	cat	up	far	on	hair	my	cow	
CONSONANTS	p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g
	pea	boat	tea	dog	cheese	June	car	go
	f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ
	fly	video	think	this	see	zoo	shall	television
	m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j
	man	now	sing	hat	love	red	wet	yes

The 44 phonemes of Received Pronunciation based on the popular Adrian Underhill layout

adapted by [EnglishClub.com](https://www.englishclub.com)

English language history

Celts (BCE)



Roman rule (43 CE – 407 CE)



Angles and Saxons (west Germany) invasions (5th, 6th century)



Vikings (Danish) invasions (9th century)



Normand (French) rule (1066 – ~13th-14th century)



Great vowel shift (15th – 16th century)



Modern influence, mainly from French and the empire

} Old English

In French, 37 sounds:

Il y a 37 sons dans l'alphabet phonétique français

[a] chat	[ɑ] pâte	[ã] sans	[b] bien	[ɔ] pomme	[õ] marron	[d] danser	[e] étoile
[ə] petit	[ɛ] mère	[ẽ] lapin	[f] femme	[g] gare	[ɥ] huit	[i] ici	[j] fille
[k] que	[l] lapin	[m] matin	[n] nous	[ɲ] gagner	[ŋ] parking	[o] chapeau	[ø] deux
[œ] fleur	[œ̃] parfum	[p] pain	[ʁ] rare	[s] souris	[ʃ] chien	[t] train	[u] souvent
	[v] avec	[w] oiseau	[y] unique	[z] maison	[ʒ] journal		

In Spanish, 21 sounds:

Spanish Alphabet									
Letter	A	B	C¹	D	E	F	G	H	I
Name	<i>a</i>	<i>be, be larga</i>	<i>ce</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>efe</i>	<i>ge</i>	<i>hache</i>	<i>i</i>
IPA	/a/	/b/	/k/, /θ/	/d/	/e/	/f/	/g/, /x/	silent	/i/
Letter	J	K	L	M	N	Ñ	O	P	Q
Name	<i>jota</i>	<i>ka</i>	<i>ele</i>	<i>eme</i>	<i>ene</i>	<i>eñe</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>pe</i>	<i>cu</i>
IPA	/x/	/k/	/l/	/m/	/n/	/ɲ/	/o/	/p/	/k/
Letter	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Name	<i>erre</i>	<i>ese</i>	<i>te</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>ve, uve, vecorta</i>	<i>uvedoble vedoble dobleve doble u</i>	<i>equis</i>	<i>igriega ye</i>	<i>zeta</i>
IPA	/r/, /r/	/s/	/t/	/u/	/b/	/gw/, /b/	/ks/, /x/		

Tools

Different websites to transcript into IPA:

- Google: e.g.: “what does mean box”
- tophonetics.com
- Many dictionaries , like:
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

Phonetic transcription

- Sounds are enclosed in “/ /”
- Each sound is a letter

apple /æ p ə l/

phonetic /f ə n e t ɪ k/

The syllable separator

banana /bə.'nɑ:. nə/

/. / after the syllable = syllable separation
not needed in the last syllable or in one-syllable words

The stressed syllable

banana /bə.'nɑ:. nə/

/' / before the syllable = stressed syllable

The stressed syllable

Some words are both nouns and verbs. The stress is the difference:

sideline	/ˈsaɪd. laɪn/	eg: He repaired PCs as a sideline
	/saɪd. ˈlaɪn/	eg: They can sideline you
contrast	/ˈkɒn. trɑːst/	eg: The contrast of the TV
	/kɒn. ˈtrɑːst /	eg: you can contrast these ideas

Voiced sounds vs unvoiced/voiceless sounds

Voiced sounds:

- Vowel sounds
- Voiced consonant sounds:

/b/ /r/ /dʒ/ /ʒ/ /v/ /m/ /n/ /g/ /w/ /z/ /l/ /ð/ /j/ /ŋ/

Unvoiced sounds:

/p/ /k/ /f/ /θ/ /s/ /ʃ/ /tʃ/ /h/

The 44 sounds in English

20 vowels

VOWELS	monophthongs				diphthongs		Phonemic Chart	
	i:	ɪ	ʊ	u:	ɪə	eɪ		
	sheep	ship	good	shoot	here	wait		
	e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ		
	bed	teacher	bird	door	tourist	boy	əʊ	show
	æ	ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ	cow
	cat	up	far	on	hair	my		
CONSONANTS	p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g
	pea	boat	tea	dog	cheese	June	car	go
	f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ
	fly	video	think	this	see	zoo	shall	television
	m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j
	man	now	sing	hat	love	red	wet	yes

The 44 phonemes of Received Pronunciation based on the popular Adrian Underhill layout

adapted by [EnglishClub.com](https://www.englishclub.com)

24
consonants

VOWELS	monophthongs				diphthongs		Phonemic Chart voiced unvoiced	
	i:	ɪ	ʊ	u:	ɪə	eɪ		
	sheep	ship	good	shoot	here	wait		
	e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ		
	bed	teacher	bird	door	tourist	boy	əʊ	show
	æ	ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ	
	cat	up	far	on	hair	my	cow	
CONSONANTS	p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g
	pea	boat	tea	dog	cheese	June	car	go
	f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ
	fly	video	think	this	see	zoo	shall	television
	m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j
	man	now	sing	hat	love	red	wet	yes

The 44 phonemes of Received Pronunciation based on the popular Adrian Underhill layout

adapted by EnglishClub.com

The easy sounds

11 sounds that are transcribed as they are written

VOWELS	monophthongs				diphthongs		Phonemic Chart voiced unvoiced	
	i:	ɪ	ʊ	u:	ɪə	eɪ		
	sheep	ship	good	shoot	here	wait		
	e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ		
	bed	teacher	bird	door	tourist	boy	əʊ	show
	æ	ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ	
	cat	up	far	on	hair	my	cow	
CONSONANTS	p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g
	pea	boat	tea	dog	cheese	June	car	go
	f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ
	fly	video	think	this	see	zoo	shall	television
	m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j
	man	now	sing	hat	love	red	wet	yes

The 44 phonemes of Received Pronunciation based on the popular Adrian Underhill layout

adapted by EnglishClub.com

- Session 1: Introduction to the phonetic alphabet
- Session 2: The different "a" sounds: /æ, ɑ:, ə, ʌ, aɪ, aʊ/
- Session 3: The different "u" sounds: /ʌ, ʊ, u:, j, w, ʊə, aʊ/
- Session 4: The different "i" sounds: /ɪ, i:, ɜ:, j, ɪə/
- Session 5: The different "e" sounds: /e, ɜ:, ə, eə, eɪ/
- Session 6: The different "o" sounds: /ɒ, ɔ:, ə, ɔɪ, əʊ/
- Session 7: The consonants, group 1: /h, g, ʃ, ʒ, dʒ, tʃ/
- Session 8: The consonants, group 2: /θ, ð, s, z, ɳ/

Standard English

Received pronunciation vs accents: words with different pronunciation

tomato GB: /tə.'mɑː.təʊ/

US: /tə.'meɪ.tou/

Standard English vs accents: different sounds

go

GB: /gəʊ/

/əʊ/ -> /oʊ/

US: /goʊ/

Go, no, crow, romantic ...

Standard English vs accents: different sounds

box

GB: /bɒks/

US: /bɑːks/

/ɒ/ -> /ɑː/

Much more than just sounds

No-accent English is much more than just sounds:

- Intonation
- Sentence stress
- Pacing
- Units of speech

Sounds are the first step. The starting point.

By the end of all the sessions:

You'll be able to pronounce well any word.

Little challenge:

Antidisestablishmentarianism

/ˈæn. taɪ. ˈdɪ. səs. tæ. blɪʃ. mən. tə. riə. nɪzəm/

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

/suː. pə. kæ. lɪ. fræ. dʒɪ. lɪs. tɪ. kə. spɪ. æ. li. ˈdæʊ. ʃəs/

/ʌ/

/æ/

/ɜː/

/t/

Thanks!

/ə/

/aɪ/

/p/

/aʊ/

/z/

/ɑː/