

Universidad de Los Andes
Facultad de Humanidades y Educación
Escuela de Idiomas Modernos

ENGLISH LETTERS & SOUNDS - PHONETIC SYMBOLS¹

A. CONSONANTS

Plosives

- | | | |
|----------|---|---------------------|
| 1. / p / | <u>p</u> en, <u>a</u> pp <u>e</u> ar, <u>s</u> top, <u>o</u> ption, <u>s</u> peak, <u>p</u> ray | bilabial, voiceless |
| 2. / b / | <u>b</u> oat, <u>b</u> aby, <u>R</u> ob, <u>o</u> bject, <u>b</u> low, <u>b</u> right | bilabial, voiced |
| 3. / t / | <u>t</u> ea, <u>l</u> ater, <u>s</u> et, <u>l</u> ittle, <u>s</u> teak, <u>t</u> rouble | alveolar, voiceless |
| 4. / d / | <u>d</u> ay, <u>m</u> edal, <u>b</u> ed, <u>a</u> dvice, <u>D</u> addy, <u>d</u> ry | alveolar, voiced |
| 5. / k / | <u>c</u> ar, <u>b</u> aker, <u>q</u> uick, <u>a</u> ccent, <u>a</u> nxious, <u>s</u> ki | velar, voiceless |
| 6. / g / | <u>g</u> o, <u>a</u> gain, <u>d</u> og, <u>i</u> gnore, <u>e</u> xam, <u>g</u> ray | velar, voiced |

Fricatives

- | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------------|
| 7. / f / | <u>f</u> oot, <u>a</u> ffair, <u>l</u> augh, <u>a</u> fternoon, <u>P</u> hilip, <u>a</u> fter | labiodental, voiceless |
| 8. / v / | <u>v</u> ery, <u>o</u> ver, <u>l</u> ove, <u>S</u> t <u>e</u> p <u>h</u> en, <u>e</u> very, <u>e</u> vening | labiodental, voiced |
| 9. / θ / | <u>t</u> hink, <u>m</u> ethod, <u>e</u> ar <u>th</u> , <u>n</u> in <u>th</u> , <u>h</u> ealth, <u>w</u> ith (AmE) | dental, voiceless |
| 10. / ð / | <u>t</u> hey, <u>m</u> other, <u>f</u> urther, <u>s</u> outhern, <u>w</u> ith (BrE) | dental, voiced |
| 11. / s / | <u>s</u> ee, <u>p</u> encil, <u>i</u> ce, <u>p</u> assed, <u>f</u> ix, <u>m</u> onths, <u>s</u> ince | alveolar, voiceless |
| 12. / z / | <u>z</u> oo, <u>e</u> asy, <u>i</u> s, <u>p</u> ossessive, <u>b</u> usiness, <u>e</u> xample | alveolar, voiced |
| 13. / ʃ / | <u>s</u> he, <u>m</u> achine, <u>w</u> ash, <u>m</u> ansion, <u>a</u> nxious, <u>c</u> ash | palato-alveolar, voiceless |
| 14. / ʒ / | <u>g</u> enre, <u>u</u> sually, <u>v</u> ision, <u>b</u> eige, <u>p</u> leasure | palato-alveolar, voiced |
| 15. / h / | <u>h</u> e, <u>p</u> er <u>h</u> aps, <u>w</u> hole, <u>w</u> hose, <u>a</u> head, <u>b</u> ehind | glottal, voiceless |

Affricates

- | | | |
|------------|--|----------------------------|
| 16. / tʃ / | <u>ch</u> air, <u>n</u> ature, <u>w</u> atch, <u>qu</u> estion, <u>a</u> ctually | palato-alveolar, voiceless |
| 17. / dʒ / | <u>J</u> ohn, <u>m</u> argin, <u>a</u> ge, <u>ch</u> anged, <u>s</u> old <u>i</u> er, <u>j</u> ail | palato-alveolar, voiced |

Nasals

- | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------|
| 18. / m / | <u>m</u> e, <u>l</u> emon, <u>c</u> ome, <u>c</u> om <u>f</u> ortable, <u>c</u> om <u>m</u> on, <u>I</u> ' <u>m</u> | bilabial, voiced |
| 19. / n / | <u>n</u> o, <u>a</u> nnoy, <u>s</u> on, <u>t</u> onne, <u>s</u> nake, <u>d</u> etermine | alveolar, voiced |
| 20. / ŋ / | <u>l</u> ong, <u>s</u> inger, <u>t</u> ongue, <u>h</u> angover, <u>b</u> elongings | velar, voiced |

¹ This handout was prepared by Prof. Ingrid Goilo de Tyrode. It has been slightly modified for the purposes of this class.

Lateral

21. / l / live (v.), silly, feel, bottle, slim, glow, plough, isle **alveolar, voiced**

Approximants

Frictionless Continuant

22. / r / red, very, far away, party, heart, heard, wrong **postalveolar, voiced**

Semivowels (or Glides)

23. / j / yes, you, young, university, pure, Europe **palatal, voiced**

24. / w / we, away, twin, witch, one, win, why, quickly **labio-velar, voiced**

B. VOWELS

Pure vowels

1. / i: / bead, teen, seat, people, machine, ski, breathe, ease
2. / ɪ / bid, tin, sit, English, pretty, study, business, busy, is
3. / e / bed, ten, set, bread, health, breath, exit, bury, lead
4. / æ / bad, tan, sat, half (AmE), aunt (AmE), laugh (AmE)
5. / ʌ / bud, ton, does, none, tongue, mother, brother, luck, London
6. / ɑ: / bard, tarn, heart, aunt (BrE), half (BrE), calm, laugh (BrE)
7. / ɒ / dog, what (BrE), sorry, broad, caught (AmE), walk (AmE)
8. / ɔ: / board, torn, sort, saw, pour (AmE), all (BrE), small (BrE)
9. / ʊ / good, full, soot, could, should, would, took, stood, cushion
10. / u: / booed, fool, suit, Sue, stew, news (AmE), nude, Luke
11. / ɜ: / bird, turn, cert, heard, earth, worthy, occur, worm, work
12. / ə / above, sister, woman, sofa, comma, banana, courageous

Diphthongs

1. / eɪ / bay, make, eight, wait, ballet, change, gay, major, cage
2. / aɪ / buy, Mike, sight, pie, height, island, sky, guy, climber, aisle
3. / ɔɪ / boy, boil, noise, employ, Illinois, foil, poise, royal, lawyer
4. / ɔʊ / (/aʊ/)² bough, town, out, our (AmE), doubt, renown, cloud, plough
5. / oʊ / (AmE) bow, go, home, sew, know, cold, old, only, own, foe
/ əʊ / (BrE) bow, go, home, sew, know, cold, old, only, own, foe
6. / ɪə / (BrE) beer, here, pier, hear, tear (n.), merely, fiercely
7. / eə / (/eə/)(BrE) bear, air, prayer, Mary, tear (v.), mayor, mare, compare
8. / ʊə / (BrE) boor, poor, suer, tour, sure, assure, insure, lure

² The phonetic symbols in parentheses are used in J. C. Wells' Pronunciation Dictionary.