

ði intənæʃənəl fənɛtɪk ælfəbɛt

the International Phonetic Alphabet

[Introduction](#) | [Vowels](#) | [Consonants](#) | [Links and Resources](#)

Vowels

The following table displays and describes the different IPA vowels and diphthongs. Click on a vowel to hear an audio clip.
(Note: The audio clips may not play well in the media bar of Internet Explorer. Use another player or download the links to disk.)

Vowel	Description	Example
[i]	forward vowel	as in <u>be</u> t
[ɪ]	forward vowel	as in b <u>i</u> t
[e]	forward vowel	as in cha <u>o</u> tic
[eɪ]	diphthong	as in b <u>ai</u> t
[ɛ]	forward vowel	as in b <u>e</u> t
[æ]	diphthong	as in b <u>a</u> t
[a]	forward vowel	as in B <u>o</u> ston (as spoken by New Englanders)
[aɪ]	diphthong	as in b <u>y</u>
[aʊ]	diphthong	as in h <u>ou</u> se
[u]	back vowel	as in b <u>oo</u> t
[ju]	diphthong	as in ab <u>u</u> se
[ʊ]	back vowel	as in b <u>oo</u> k
[o]	back vowel	as in pill <u>ow</u>

[oʊ]	diphthong	as in <u>boat</u>
[ɔ]	back vowel	as in <u>awe</u>
[ɔɪ]	diphthong	as in <u>boy</u>
[ɑ]	back vowel	as in <u>father</u>
[ʌ]	central vowel, stressed	as in <u>bud</u>
[ə]	central vowel, unstressed (schwa)	as in <u>appeal</u>
[ɜ]	central vowel with r, stressed	as in <u>burr</u>
[ə]	central vowel with r, unstressed (hooked schwa)	as in <u>butter</u>
[ɜ]	central vowel, r-less	as in <u>bird</u>

[Introduction](#) | [Vowels](#) | [Consonants](#) | [Links and Resources](#)

©2003 [The University of Kansas](#)
webmaster