

English sounds – the phonemes

INDIVIDUAL SOUNDS

The vowel-sounds

► Listen and repeat.

a The front vowels

/i:/ beat feet piece
/ɪ/ bit myth
/e/ bet head
/æ/ bat mad

b The central vowels

/ɜ:/ perk girl turn work
/ə/ percent forget colour
/ʌ/ puck son country
/ɑ:/ park ask dance

c The back vowels

/ʊ:/ pool rule
/ʊ/ pull look could
/ɔ:/ port all four water
/ɒ/ pot wash squash

The longer vowel sounds have a colon:
/i://ɜ://ʊ://ə://ɔ:/

Make the diphthongs short.

d The diphthongs

/eɪ/ lake great
/aɪ/ boy
/aʊ/ like type
/əʊ/ no road
/aʊ/ now loud

/ɪə/ clear here
/eə/ pair fare
/ʊə/ sure tour

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The consonant-sounds

► Listen and repeat.

a The plosives

/p/ pay paper up
/b/ boy baby job
/t/ time letter let
/d/ day ready red
/k/ kiss lucky lake
/g/ go bigger big

b The affricates

/tʃ/ church future rich
/dʒ/ judge major page

The dash - shows the lack of this sound in either the initial, medial or final position.

c The fricatives

/f/ film offer laugh
/v/ visit nervous love
/θ/ think method bath
/ð/ this weather with
/s/ see messy miss
/z/ zoo easy rose
/ʃ/ show nation push
/ʒ/ — vision massage
/h/ hope behave —

d The nasals

/m/ my army arm
/n/ no any iron
/ŋ/ — longing long

e The laterals

/l/ like silly —
/ɫ/ — film all

f The frictionless continuant

/r/ rest very —

g The semi-vowels

/j/ young beyond —
/w/ west beware —