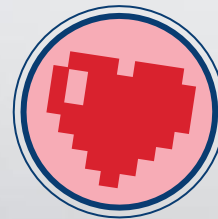


LA WEB DE RAFA

English Sounds

Vowel sounds, diphthongs, and
consonant sounds.



Summary

Below are the sounds of spoken English:

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](https://www.englishclub.com)



Ship or
Sheep?



Vowel Sounds

Long vowel sounds vs.
Short vowels sounds.



Full or fool?



Comparison

Repeat these words out loud, then make full sentences.

Compare /e/

- FRIEND
- SAID
- ANY
- HEAD
- SEEVEN
- MET
- KEPT
- VET
- CHECK
- INTERNET
- END
- STRENGTH
- EVERY
- MEANT
- READ (past)
- LEECESTER
- CHESS
- DEAD
- LEAD (noun)
- LEATHER
- FEATHER
- WEATHER=WHETHER
- NEPHEW
- ELEEVEN



Compare /ɜ:/

- GIRL
- NURSE
- CHURCH
- FUR / FIR
- WORD
- WORK
- WORLD
- HEARD
- EARN
- DESSERT
- ALERT
- BURP
- CURTAIN
- EMERGENCY
- LEARN
- COLONEL
- SERVE
- STIR
- SURF
- EARTH
- OCCUR
- PREFER
- FURNITURE
- BIRD

Comparison

Repeat these words out loud, then make full sentences.

Compare /ɪ/

- SPINACH
- LYRICS
- MINUTE
- ENGLISH
- WOMEN
- TICKET
- MESSAGE
- VINTAGE
- ORANGE
- SPEAK
- VILLAGE
- SINCE
- LUGGAGE

- RECIPE
- LETTUCE
- PISS
- LIST
- FORTY
- SICK
- LICK
- PICK
- HIT
- HILL
- SHIT
- FIT
- FILL
- PILL



Compare /i:/

- MEAT=MEET
- PEACE
- LEAST
- FOURTEEN
- SEEK
- LEAK=LEEK
- PEAK=PEEK
- HEAT
- HEAL=HEEL
- SHEET
- FEET=FEAT
- FEEL
- PEEL
- PLEASE
- EASY
- CHEAT
- SEEN=SCENE
- FIELD
- SCHEME
- SEAT
- LEAVE
- THESE
- BETWEEN
- SEA= SEE
- NIECE
- CHEESE

Comparison

Repeat these words out loud, then make full sentences.

Compare /b/

- OFFICE
- NOUGHT=NOT
- LOCK
- POSSIBLE
- ROTTEN
- COMMON
- FOREIGN
- KNOB
- MODEL
- SHOCK
- NOD
- PLOT
- WHAT
- FOLLOW
- CLOTH
- BOMBER
- SORRY
- STOP
- BODY
- OBVIOUS
- PROBLEM
- FOREST
- BORROW
- COPY



Compare /ɔ:/ • YOURS

- ARKANSAS
- YACHT
- BOARD
- ORCHESTRA
- LAUNDRY
- AUDIO
- DRAW
- AUGUST
- CAUSE
- EXHAUST
- SAUCE
- CAUTION
- YAWN
- AUTHOR
- IGNORE
- TAUGHT
- BOUGHT
- CAUGHT
- TALK
- WATER
- WALK
- ORPHAN
- SAW
- SWORD

Comparison

Repeat these words out loud, then make full sentences.

Compare /ʊ/

- COULD
- SHOUUD
- BOUOK
- GOUD
- TOUTH
- WOUDEN
- PUUSH
- WOULD
- WOULVES
- BUULLY
- CROOUKED
- FOUT
- TOUMB
- BUUTCHER
- PUULL
- FUULL
- WOULLY
- LOOUK
- COOUK
- TOOUK
- BUULLET
- BUUSH
- CUUSHION
- PUUDDING



Compare /u:/

- RUUE
- POUL
- FOUL
- RUUINED
- MUUSIC
- FUUTURE
- TOOU=TWO
- WHUO
- CANOUE
- CRUUEL
- RUUE
- CRUUISE
- ZOO
- FOUD
- DO
- SHOUE
- TOOU
- BLEW=BLUE
- SPOOUN
- TRUUE
- RECRUUIT
- SUUT
- JUUICE
- FRUUIT
- SOUP

Comparison

Compare /ʌ/

- MONEY
- BROTHER
- BLOOD
- GLOVES
- TOUGH
- ENOUGH
- NOTHING
- HONEY
- LOVE
- LONDON
- MOTHER
- SON=SUN
- CULTURE
- COUSIN
- NONE=NUN
- CUPBOARD
- HUT
- MUD
- CUT
- FUN
- BUNK
- CRUSH
- TUB
- CUB
- BUT
- RUSH
- US
- LUST
- WORRY
- ONION



Repeat these words out loud, then make full sentences.

Compare /æ/

- HAT
- MAD
- CAT
- FAN
- BANK
- CRASH
- TAB
- CAB
- BAT
- RASH
- ASS
- LAST
- CONTACT
- CANYON
- FAMILY
- FANTASTIC
- HAND
- IMAGINE
- ANT
- MAN
- EXAM
- HAPPEN
- AFTER
- MATHEMATICS
- EXACTLY
- ACTUALLY
- FASHION
- BLACK



Compare /ɑ:/

- AREN'T=AUNT
- DANCE
- BANANA
- ASK
- FATHER
- START
- ARMY
- TOMATO (UK)
- ANSWER
- CLASS
- GLASSES
- VASE
- SMART
- FAST
- CARD
- HEART
- ARGUE
- LAVA=LARVA
- GARDEN
- BARGAIN
- MASSAGE
- MOUSTACHE
- PALM
- GIRAFFE
- IRAQ
- DATA



The Schwa

The sound /ə/ is a VERY short, unstressed vowel sound which normally appears in unstressed syllables.

- CUMPUTER
- FORGET
- VEGETABLE
- COMFORTABLE
- SISTER
- GARDEN
- CUPBOARD
- AROUND
- PENCIL
- OFFICIAL
- RESPONSIBLE
- OCCUR
- LEADER
- AGAIN
- LONDON
- TOMORROW
- TAKEN
- SUGAR
- PRESENT (n)
- FORTUNE
- LEVEL
- SURVIVE
- INDIRECT
- ALONE
- NATURE
- ANSWER
- FOCUS
- DIFFICULT
- BANANA
- SUMMER
- LEISURE
- PROTECT
- IMPORTANT
- THEATRE
- WIZARD
- DOCTOR
- CENTRE
- CIRCUS
- THE
- SYSTEM
- COMPANY
- ATTENTION
- SUPPORT
- ARRIVE
- CAPITAL
- PRIVATE
- LITTLE
- MUSCLE
- OTHER
- PRONUNCIATION
- SECOND
- TOWARDS
- OPEN
- LITERATURE
- SILENCE
- URBAN
- PROPERLY
- MIDDLE
- TEMPERATURE
- EXERCISE



Diphthongs

-Hey, hi! How's my hair?
-Soaking. Here's a dryer.



Comparison

Repeat these words out loud, then make full sentences.

Compare /aɪ/

- MOBILE
- PRIIVATE
- FRAGILE
- WiFi
- ISLAND
- TYPE
- SOCIETY
- IDENTIFY
- NEARBY
- TIGER
- PYTHON
- HYAENA
- EYE
- CLIMBING
- SCIENCE
- WILD
- GUY
- HEIGHT
- QUITE
- AISLE=I'LL
- PIRACY
- EITHER
- VIRUS
- ENVIRONMENT



Compare /eɪ/

- PLACE
- CREATE
- ALIEN
- FATAL
- APRON
- WEIGH
- SHAKE
- MAIL=MALE
- AMAZING
- BEHAVE
- ATE=EIGHT
- WAIST=WASTE
- FACE
- BASS
- ALWAYS
- ESAPE
- DANGER
- ACORN
- AGENCY
- GRADE
- GREAT=GRATE
- BREAK=BRAKE
- SAIL=SALE
- STEAK=STAKE



Compare /ɔɪ/

- ILLINOIS
- FOIL
- APPOINT
- BOILER
- TOILET
- SPOILER
- TURQUOISE
- VOYAGE
- DECOY
- ANNOY
- OIL
- COWBOY
- CHOICE
- ENJOY
- OYSTER
- COIN
- VOICE
- EMPLOY
- JOINT
- CORDUROY
- DESTROY
- NOISY
- MOISTURE
- POISON



Comparison

Repeat these words out loud, then make full sentences.

Compare /eə/

- PARENTS
- MAYOR
- AIR=HEIR
- SWEAR
- BEAR
- FAIR=FARE
- STAIRS
- REPAIR
- PRAIRIE
- HAIR=HARE
- DAIRY
- TEAR (verb)
- PRAYER
- WHERE=WEAR
- CLAIRVOYANT
- CHAIR
- AFFAIR
- CARE
- SCARCE
- LIBRARIAN
- NIGHTMARE
- MILLIONAIRE
- THERE=THEIR
- YEAH
- DARE
- PEAR=PAIR



Compare /ɪə/

- EAR
- BEER
- BEARD
- TEAR (noun)
- APEAR
- GEAR
- NEAR
- PIERCE
- FRONTIER
- CASHIER
- SERIOUS
- MATERIAL
- CAREER
- HEAR=HERE
- DEAR=DEER
- CEREAL=SERIAL
- SHAKESPEARE
- CHEERS
- STEER
- ENGINEER
- WEIRD
- SPHERE
- SINCERE
- CLEAR
- PIONEER
- BACTERIA



Compare /aʊ/

- VOWEL
- DROUGHT
- DOUBT
- ROUTER
- SOW (noun)
- ROW
- SCOUT
- BROUSE
- COUNT
- TROUT
- ALLOW
- COWARD
- CROUDED
- BROUN
- GOWN
- CLOUD
- BLOUSE
- STOUT
- MOUNTAIN
- FOUNTAIN
- LOUD
- POWDER
- OWL
- DROUN
- SPROUTS
- DOWNTOWN



Comparison

Repeat these words out loud, then make full sentences.

Compare /əʊ/

- POLL
- OPEN
- ROAD
- CLOTHES
- COAT
- TOE
- TOMATO
- COLD
- SNOW
- ELBOW
- SO=SEW=SOW
- KNOW=NO
- HOTEL
- GROSS
- MOLD=MOULD
- DON'T
- OH, NO!
- CHOOSE
- COCKROACH
- HOLE=WHOLE
- QUOTE
- THOUGH
- SWALLOW
- SOAP
- TOAST
- AGO



Compare /ʊə/

- TOUR
- EUROPE
- SURE
- POOR
- HOURL
- POWER
- USUAL
- SECURE
- PURE
- TOURIST
- FLOUR
- MATURE
- CURE
- COWARD
- ENDURE
- DURING
- PLURAL
- LIQUEUR
- PUNCTUAL
- INDIVIDUAL
- JURY
- CURIOUS
- FURY
- FLOWER

Choose or
shoes?



Consonant Sounds

Voiced sounds vs.
Voiceless sounds.



Plosives

These sounds are similar to those in Spanish but they sound a lot stronger in English. The first sound in every couple is voiceless, the second is voiced.

Compare /p/	Compare /b/	Compare /k/	Compare /g/	Compare /t/	Compare /d/
• <u>A</u> PPLY	• <u>B</u> ERRY	• <u>C</u> HEMISTRY	• <u>G</u> IRL	• <u>T</u> EAT <u>I</u> ME	• <u>D</u> AV <u>I</u> D
• S <u>H</u> E <u>P</u> HERD	• <u>B</u> U <u>B</u> BLE	• A <u>C</u> HE	• E <u>G</u> G	• <u>T</u> HOMAS	• ABAN <u>D</u> ONED
• A <u>P</u> PRO <u>P</u> RIATE	• L <u>A</u> B	• A <u>C</u> TION	• <u>G</u> O <u>G</u> GLES	• <u>T</u> H <u>Y</u> ME	• RO <u>D</u> ENT
• <u>P</u> E <u>P</u> PER	• V <u>I</u> B <u>R</u> ATE	• <u>C</u> A <u>K</u> E	• M <u>A</u> G <u>A</u> ZINE	• <u>T</u> AT <u>T</u> OO	• BLON <u>D</u> E
• <u>P</u> RE <u>P</u> ARE	• E <u>B</u> B	• H <u>I</u> K <u>I</u> NG	• E <u>X</u> AM	• PRE <u>T</u> END	• SU <u>D</u> DENLY
• A <u>P</u> P	• <u>B</u> UCKET	• S <u>C</u> EPT <u>I</u> C <u>A</u> L	• <u>G</u> ARLIC	• S <u>T</u> APLER	• <u>D</u> AMAGE
• <u>P</u> LAT <u>Y</u> P <u>U</u> S	• O <u>B</u> SERVE	• S <u>C</u> HEDULE	• TAG <u>G</u> ED	• S <u>T</u> RA <u>I</u> G <u>H</u> T	• FLOO <u>D</u>
• FL <u>I</u> P-FLO <u>P</u> S	• A <u>B</u> BEY	• M <u>E</u> CH <u>A</u> N <u>I</u> C	• E <u>X</u> ACTLY	• ASK <u>E</u> D	• <u>D</u> AUGHTER
• A <u>P</u> PLE	• O <u>C</u> TO <u>B</u> ER	• S <u>T</u> OMACH	• <u>G</u> E <u>E</u> K	• BOTT <u>L</u> E	• <u>D</u> E <u>L</u> U <u>D</u> E <u>D</u>
• <u>P</u> UP <u>P</u> ET	• REHAB	• O <u>R</u> CH <u>E</u> STRA	• BAG <u>A</u> GGE	• <u>T</u> RUTH	• MARR <u>I</u> E <u>D</u>
• <u>P</u> UBLIC	• TROU <u>B</u> LE	• S <u>C</u> H <u>O</u> OL	• EN <u>G</u> LAND	• L <u>I</u> TT <u>E</u> R	• NEE <u>D</u> E <u>D</u>
• <u>P</u> OP	• L <u>I</u> B <u>R</u> ARY	• TE <u>C</u> H <u>N</u> ICAL	• T <u>A</u> R <u>G</u> ET	• LAUGH <u>E</u> D	• PADD <u>L</u> E

Fricatives I

The first sound in every couple is voiceless, the second is voiced.

Compare /f/	Compare /v/	Compare /θ/	Compare /ð/	Compare /s/	Compare /z/
• LAUGH	• EVERY	• THIRTY	• WITH	• CITY	• POSSESS
• OFFER	• STEPHEN	• BROTH	• TOGETHER	• FACE	• ZEBRA
• PHONE	• SLEEVE	• MONTH	• LOATHE	• RELAX	• EASY
• FLUFFY	• SURVIVE	• ATHLETE	• SOOTHING	• PROMISE	• PLEASE
• HALF	• AVAILABLE	• THUMB	• ANOTHER	• USE (noun)	• USE (verb)
• ENOUGH	• FLAVOUR	• WORTH	• WORTHY	• PRESENT (v)	• PRESENT (n)
• DECAF'	• OF	• CLOTH	• CLOTHES	• PRICE	• PRIZE
• ORPHAN	• LOVE	• BATH	• BATHE	• KISSES	• ALWAYS
• WiFi	• HOWEVER	• BREATH	• BREATHE	• SCENT	• KEYS
• FREE	• VALUABLE	• MARATHON	• RHYTHM	• VOICE	• FREEZES
• MUFFIN	• CURSIVE	• PATHETIC	• ALTHOUGH	• CASTLE	• DOES
• OFF	• VACCUUM	• THOUGHT	• THE	• PSYCHO	• RESULT
				• GLOUCESTER	• CITIZEN
				• SWORD	• DESSERT

Fricatives II

Repeat these words out loud, then make full sentences.

Voiceless /ʃ/

- CHEF
- MACHINE
- CHICAGO
- FASHION
- ASH
- PARTIAL
- LOTION
- MANSION
- ANCIENT
- MISSION
- FICTION
- SPECIES
- DELICIOUS
- RUSSIA
- SUGAR
- SURELY
- PASSION
- OCEAN
- NATION
- ISSUE
- PATIENT
- OBSESSION
- SOcial
- SESSION
- PRESSURE
- SPECIAL



Voiced /ʒ/

- USUAL
- TELEVISION
- MEASURE
- VERSION
- MASSAGE
- OCCASION
- DECISION
- VISUAL
- BEIGE
- GENRE
- ILLUSION
- SEIZURE
- INVASION
- PLEASURE
- LEISURE
- VISION
- CASUAL
- DIVISION
- REVISION
- CONFUSION
- TREASURE
- EXPOSURE
- LINGERIE
- EXPLOSION
- USUALLY
- ASLA (also with f)

The sound /h/

- HOSPITAL
- HAPPEN
- BEHAVE
- HATE
- AHEAD
- BEHIND
- HOSTEL
- HOTEL
- ALCOHOL
- WHOLE
- HOMELESS
- HIDEOUS
- HYPOCRITE
- HIGH-HEELS

BUT / Ø /

- HOUR
- HONEST
- HEIR
- GHOST
- VEHICLE
- THAI
- HONOUR
- GHETTO
- EXHAUSTED
- SHEPHERD
- RHAPSODY
- GHASTLY

Nasals

Repeat these words out loud, then make full sentences.

Compare /m/

- MIME
- BLAME
- IMMATURE
- THYME
- PLUMBER
- CLIMBER
- SUMMIT
- COMMENT
- MOMENT
- HOMELESS
- SALMON
- MEDIUM
- CAM
- SWAM
- THEM
- WHIM
- SUM
- NUMB
- CAME
- SAME
- COMB
- FOAM
- TERM
- DUMB



Compare /n/

- CAN
- SWAN
- THEN
- WIN
- SON
- NUN=NONE
- CANE
- SANE
- CONE
- PHONE
- TURN
- DONE
- NINE
- BORN
- THORN
- GNOME
- ALIGN
- FOREIGN
- CONNECT
- ANNOY
- SIGN
- KNOW
- COLONEL
- NANNY



Compare /ŋ/

- SINGING
- HANGING
- THING
- ANKLE
- FUNCTION
- NOTHING
- ANGLE
- STRONG
- YOUNG
- BLANKET
- THANKS
- HUNGER
- LONG
- SINGLE
- ANGRY
- FINGER
- BRING
- SPRING
- MMORNING
- EVENING
- KING
- TONGUE
- WRONG
- AMONG

Affricates

Compare /tʃ/

- FUTURE
- NATURE
- OSTRICH
- CHEETAH
- ARMCHAIR
- CZECH
- ITCH
- PURCHASE
- ADVENTURE
- FORTUNATE
- PICTURE
- APPROACH
- TOUCH
- KITCHEN
- CHANGE
- TEMPERATURE
- CHOOSE
- CHOP
- TEACHER
- PITCH
- CHECK
- WHICH=WITCH
- CULTURE
- RIGHTEOUS
- SITUATION
- CHEAT-SHEET
- CATCH
- SWITCH

Compare /dʒ/

- JUDGE
- EDUCATION
- PROCEDURE
- SOLDIER
- GINGER
- LANGUAGE
- ADVANTAGE
- PAGE
- HUGE
- ENGINEER
- DANGER
- IMAGE
- LARGE
- FRIDGE
- EGYPT
- MAJOR
- JEW
- TEENAGER
- GENES=JEANS
- JOURNEY
- GIANT
- SUBJECT
- INJURY
- REGION
- URGENT
- SANDWICH
- SPINACH
- GRADUATE
- KNOWLEDGE
- MANAGER



Laterals

Compare /l/

- LOLLIPOP
- SLIM
- BLACK
- LAUGHTER
- FLAG
- LETTER
- CLEAN
- LIGHTNING
- LEVEL
- LOUDLY
- EXACTLY
- LATELY
- TALLER
- SMALLER

Compare /ɫ/

- GIRL
- SMALL
- FULL
- FILM
- ALWAYS
- OLD
- MELTED
- MILK
- HELP
- CIRCLE
- TALL
- TALK
- EMAIL
- HOLE=WHOLE



Frictionless continuant

Compare /r/

- FRIEND • EVERY
- ROSE • READ
- FURRY • ERRAND
- EARRING • PROUD
- WRITE • ALGERIA
- AROUND • REALLY
- BREAK • HAIRY
- CARRY • CARROT
- MARRIAGE • BRAZIL
- DIFFERENT • CROCODILE
- MIRROR • FROTHY
- WORRIED • ARROW
- PARENT • TRASURE



But when the letter 'r' appears at the end of a syllable:

Compare /ɑ:/, /ɒ:/ and /ɜ:/

- CARPET • SWORD • FURTHER
- AREN'T • INFORM • BLUR
- START • REPORT • WORD
- FAR • WAR • WEREN'T
- BARGAIN • YOURS • MURDER
- CARDIGAN • BORD • FIRM
- FARMER • CHORE • NERD
- GARLIC • BORED • CURB
- CHARLES • HORSE • TERM
- ARGUE • ORPHAN • PURGE
- PARK • MOURN • SIR
- CARPET • NORTH • SURFACE
- VARNISH • DOOR • SERVANT



Compare /ə/

- FURNITURE
- PICTURE
- NATURE
- AIRBAG
- MURDER
- COLOUR
- THEIR=THERE
- FIRE
- SOUR
- SUGAR
- OVER
- RAZOR
- BEER

Semi-vowels

Repeat these words out loud, then make full sentences.

Semi-vowel /w/

- ONE=WON
- WHEN
- WISH
- WATER
- TOWARDS
- BEWARE
- AWAY
- WHY
- WOOD
- WOOL
- WOULD
- AWARE
- OTHERWISE
- MEANWHILE
- COWORKER
- WEAR=WHERE
- WAREHOUSE
- HARDWARE
- REWIND
- WINE=WHINE
- ANYWAY
- SOMEONE
- WHALE
- WIRELESS

Semi-vowel /j/

- UNIFORM
- USUAL
- UNIQUE
- EURO
- MISUSE
- UNIVERSITY
- UNIT
- UNION
- USEFUL
- YOURS
- YELL
- BUOYANCY
- BEYOND
- YOUNG
- YELLOW
- BEAUTY
- MUSIC
- DURING
- TUTOR
- STUPID
- KNEW
- ARGUE
- YEAR
- PURE

WRAP-UP

Sounds and Letters (A poem for ESL students)

When in English class we speak, why is break nor rhymed with freak? Will you tell me why it's true that we say sew, but also few?

When a poet writes a verse, why is horse not rhymed with worse? Beard sounds not the same as heard. Lord sounds not the same as word.

Cow is cow, but low is low. Shoe is never rhymed with toe. Think of nose and dose and lose. Think of goose, but then of choose.

Confuse not comb with tomb or bomb, doll with roll, or home with some. We have blood and food and good. Mould is not pronounced like could.

There's pay and say, but paid and said. "I will read", but "I have read". Why say done, but gone and lone - Is there any reason known?

To summarise, it seems to me sounds and letters disagree.





Check what you've learned with these online exercises:

- [Vowel Sounds & Food Vocabulary](#)
- [The Alphabet](#)
- [Numbers](#)
- [Days of the Week](#)
- [Months of the Year](#)
- [Countries](#)
- [Nationalities](#)

Cat or cut? Fan or fun?



Thank You

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