**Evolve Digital**

Phonetic symbols

# Vowel sounds

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| æ | m**a**n /mæn/ |
| ʌ | m**u**ch /mʌtʃ/ |
| ʊ | g**oo**d /ɡʊd/ |
| e | t**e**n /ten/ |
| ɪ | s**i**x /sɪks/ |
| i | pl**ea**se /pliz/ |
| u | t**oo** /tu/ |
| ə | umbrell**a** /ʌmˈbrelə/ |
| ɜ | g**i**rl /ɡɜrl/ |
| ɑ | n**o**t /nɑt/ |
| ɔ | **a**ll /ɔl/ |
| eɪ | gr**ea**t /ɡreɪt/ |
| aɪ | l**i**ke /laɪk/ |
| ɔɪ | b**oy** /bɔɪ/ |
| oʊ | g**o** /ɡoʊ/ |
| aʊ | n**ow** /naʊ/ |
| ɪr | n**ear** /nɪr/ |
| er | ch**air** /tʃer/ |

The vowel sounds in English include single vowel sounds or diphthongs. In a diphthong, two vowel sounds are made together quickly within a single syllable, for example, eɪ or aɪ.

# Consonant sounds

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| p | **p**en /pen/ |
| b | **b**ig /bɪɡ/ |
| f | **f**amily /ˈfæməli/ |
| v | mo**v**ie  /ˈmuvi/ |
| t | **t**ime /tɑɪm/ |
| d | **d**og /dɔɡ/ |
| k | **c**offee /ˈkɔfi/ |
| g | **g**ot /ɡɑt/ |
| θ | **th**ree /θri/ |
| ð | **th**e /ðə/ |
| tʃ | **ch**eap /tʃip/ |
| ʤ | **j**ust  /dʒʌst/ |
| s | **s**orry  /ˈsɑri/ |
| z | **z**oo /zu/ |
| ʃ | fa**sh**ion /ˈfæʃən/ |
| ʒ | televi**s**ion /ˈteləˌvɪʒən/ |
| m | **m**e /mi/ |
| n | **n**ice /nɑɪs/ |
| ŋ | shoppi**ng**  /ˈʃɑpɪŋ/ |
| h | **h**ot /hɑt/ |
| l | **l**ove  /lʌv/ |
| r | **r**un /rʌn/ |
| w | **w**e /wi/ |
| j | **y**es /jes/ |

# Other symbols

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ˈ | This represents the main or primary stress in a word. |
| ˌ | This represents the secondary stress which can occur in longer words. |
| ː | This is often used to represent a long vowel sound, but it is not commonly used in the transcription for American pronunciation. |

Remember it is the syllable coming immediately after ˈ or ˌ which is stressed. So in the word **television** /ˈteləˌvɪʒən/, the main stress is on the first syllable, and the secondary stress falls on the third syllable.

# Notes

This resource is based on the standard American English accent. However, it is important to remember that there are a variety of different regional accents and pronunciations of English across the world.

One important feature of the standard American accent is that when the letter **r** in the spelling of a word occurs after a vowel, it is always pronounced. So, the word **far** is pronounced /fɑr/. This does not happen in the standard British accent where **far** is pronounced /fɑ/, but can be heard in many regional varieties of British English.

Another important feature of the standard American accent is that /t/ often sounds like /d/ when it occurs between vowel sounds or /r/, and when the first syllable is stressed. So, the word **pretty** sounds like /ˈprɪdi/ in contrast to British English /ˈprɪti/.