

English I

Sounds in English

The English alphabet has 26 letters, made up of **consonants** and **vowels**. There are five **vowels** (a, e, i, o, u) and the rest are all **consonants**. In English, pronunciation of words centres upon **syllables**: a **syllable** is a unit of pronunciation which has one vowel sound, with or without surrounding consonants, forming the whole or a part of a word. For example, there are two syllables in wa/ter and three in in/fer/no.

The international phonetic system (IPA)

The **International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)** is an alphabet of phonetic notation designed to capture all the different ways words in English can be pronounced, based on the Latin alphabet.

Consonant Sounds –

consonant grapheme	IPA phoneme	representative words	consonant grapheme	IPA phoneme	representative words
/b/	b	b aby	/r/	r	rab b it, w rong
/d/	d	d og	/s/	s	s un, mou s e, ci t y, s cience
/f/	f	f ield, p hoto	/t/	t	t ap
/g/	g	g ame	/v/	v	v an
/h/	h	h at	/w/	w	w as
/j/	dʒ	ju d ge, gi g iant, ba g e	/y/	j	y es
/k/	k	c ook, q uick, mi x , C hris	/z/	z	z ebra, plea s e, i s
/l/	l	l amb	/θ/	θ	th en
/m/	m	m onkey, co mb	/θ/	θ	th in

Vowel sounds –

vowel phonemes	IPA	representative words	vowel phonemes	IPA	representative words
/a/	æ	cat	/oo/	ʊ	look, would, put
/e/	e	peg, bread	/ar/	ɑ:	cart, fast (<i>regional</i>)
/i/	ɪ	pig, give	/ur/	ɜ:	burn, first, term, heard, work
/o/	ɒ	log, want	/au/	ɔ:	torn, door, warn, haul, law, call
/u/	ʌ	plug, love	/er/	ə	wooden, circus, sister
/ae/	eɪ	pain, day, gate, station	/ow/	aʊ	down, shout
/ee/	i:	sweet, heat, thief, these	/oi/	ɔɪ	coin, boy
/ie/	aɪ	tried, light, my, shine, mind	/air/	eə	stairs, bear, hare

Articulation of Consonant Sounds

Oral Sounds					Nasal Sounds
	-asp -voice	+asp -voice	-asp +voice	+asp +voice	
Velar	k	kh	g	gh	ng
Palatal	c	ch	j	jh	ny
Retroflex	T	Th	D	Dh	N
Dental	t	th	d	dh	n
Labial	p	ph	b	bh	m

Articulation of Vowel Sounds

a	up,	cup		
aa	father,	sound,	round	
i	in,	ink,	sink,	drink
li	clean,	seat,	beat,	feet
u	book,	cook,	look,	
uu	zoo,	boot,	room	

Velar sounds - A **velar** consonant is a consonant that is pronounced with the back part of the tongue against the soft palate, also known as the velum, which is the back part of the roof of the mouth. Velar **consonants** in English are [k], [g] and [ŋ]. The consonant [k] is the most common in all human languages.

Palatal Sounds - **Palatal sounds** are made with the tongue body (the big, fleshy part of your tongue). The tongue body raises up towards the hard-palate in your mouth (the dome shaped roof of your mouth) to form an effective constriction. An example of a **palatal sounds in English** is /j/, usually spelt as <y>.

Retroflex Sounds - A **retroflex** consonant is a coronal consonant where the tongue has a flat, concave, or even curled shape, and is articulated between the alveolar ridge and the hard palate. They are sometimes referred to as cerebral consonants, especially in Indology.

Dental Sounds - **Dental sounds** involve the tongue tip (active articulator) making contact with the upper teeth to form a constriction. Examples of **Dental sounds in English** are / θ, ð/. If a **sound** is produced where the tongue is between the upper and lower teeth, it is attributed the term 'interdental'.

Labial Sounds - **Labial** consonants are consonants in which one or both lips are the active articulator. The two common labial articulations are bilabials, articulated using both lips, and labiodentals, articulated with the lower lip against the upper teeth, both of which are present in English.

Glottal Sounds - The **glottal plosive or stop** is a type of consonantal sound used in many spoken languages, produced by obstructing airflow in the vocal tract or, more precisely, the glottis. The symbol in the International Phonetic Alphabet that represents this sound is ⟨ʔ⟩.

Alveolar Sounds - **Alveolar** consonants are articulated with the tongue against or close to the superior alveolar ridge, which is called that because it contains the alveoli of the upper teeth.

Postalveolar Sounds - **Postalveolar consonants** are consonants articulated with the tongue near or touching the back of the alveolar ridge, farther back in the mouth than the alveolar consonants, which are at the ridge itself but not as far back as the hard palate, the place of articulation for palatal consonants.

Labiodental Sounds - **Labiodental sounds** involve the lower lip (labial) and upper teeth (dental) coming into contact with each other to form an effective constriction in the vocal tract. Examples of **labiodental sounds in English** are /f, v/.

	bilabial	labio-dental	dental	alveolar	post-alveolar	palatal	velar	glottal
stop	p b			t d			k g	ʔ
nasal	m			n			ŋ	
flap				r				
fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ			h
approximant				ɹ		j		
lateral approximant				l				

Articulation of Consonant Sounds

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Palatal	c	ch	j	jh	ny
Retroflex	T	Th	D	Dh	N
Dental	t	th	d	dh	n
Labial	p	ph	b	bh	m

Simple words

- Most of the words are a sequence of consonants and vowel sounds.
- CVCV papa, daddy, mom
- CVC dad, mom,
- VCVC
- CVV
- CCVC what, glass
- CVCC sink
- Words only with vowels sounds
- Eye /aai/

Consonants

- Sounds produced by modification of the flow of exhaling air in the vocal tract
- /k/ – velar king, class
- /g/ -- velar great, glass
- /p/ -- bilabial pink, pure
- /b/ -- bilabial bliss, bless
- They have an inbuilt vowel sound 'a' with all of them.

Assimilation - **Assimilation** is a sound change in which some phonemes (typically consonants or vowels) change to be more similar to other nearby sounds. It is a common type of phonological process across **languages**. **Assimilation** can occur either within a word or between words.

Clusters in English Words

Consonants

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Words

- Words are sequence of consonants and vowel sounds.
- CVCVCV papa, daddy, mom
- CVC dad, mom,
- VCVC
- CVV
- CCVC glass
- CVCC sink
- Sounds from same places of articulation do not come next to each other.
pb bp td
- Words only with vowels sounds
- Eye /aai/

Consonant Clusters

- Two consonant sounds together
- Reduction of the inbuilt vowel sounds from the first one
- Not in random order

• Cluster	-	/kləstər/	CCVCCVC
• Bliss	-	/blis/	CCVC
• School	-	/skuul/	CCVC
• Scooter	-	/skutar/	CCVCVC
• Blast	-	/blast/	CCVCC

Clusters of three consonants

- Spring /spring/ s p r **CCVC**
- Stress /stres/ s t r **CCVC**
- Screw /skrue/ s k r **CCVV**
- Splash /splash/ s p l **CCVC**
- String /string/ s t r **CCVC**
- Scrub /skrub/ s k r **CCVC**

Syllables

- A **syllable** is a unit of organization for a sequence of speech sounds.
- Syllables have nucleus (most often a vowel) with optional initial and final margins (typically, consonants).
- Words can have several syllables.
- One syllable words.
- Two two syllable word,
- Three syllable words,
- Four syllable words.

Words and Syllables

- One word may have one or more syllables
- Words with one syllables
- sun life, break, tongue
- Words with two syllables
- tiger (ti-ger), police (po-lice), between(bet-ween), marriage(mar-riage)

• Examples of three syllable words :

energy (e-ner-gii), capital (ka-pi-tal),
heritage (he-ri-teg), suffering (saf-far-ing)

• Examples of four syllable words:

Invisible(in-vi-si-ble), education (e-du-ke-shan),
aquarium (a-quar-ii-am), infinity (in-fi-ni-tii)

Syllables

- A syllable consists of three segments –
- nucleus, onset, rhyme, coda.
- **Nucleus** : a vowel or syllabic consonant, obligatory in most languages.
- **Onset**- a consonant or consonant clusters.
- **Rhyme** – contrasts with onset and splits into nucleus and coda.
 - **Coda** - a consonant, optional in some languages, highly restricted or prohibited in others.

Prefix - A prefix is an affix which is placed before the stem of a word. Adding it to the beginning of one word changes it into another word.

Suffix - a suffix is an affix which is placed after the stem of a word. Common examples are case endings, which indicate the grammatical case of nouns, adjectives, and verb endings, which form the conjugation of verbs.

Conversion - **conversion** is a word-formation process that assigns an existing word to a different word class, part of speech, or syntactic category. This process is also called zero derivation or a functional shift.

COMPOUNDING

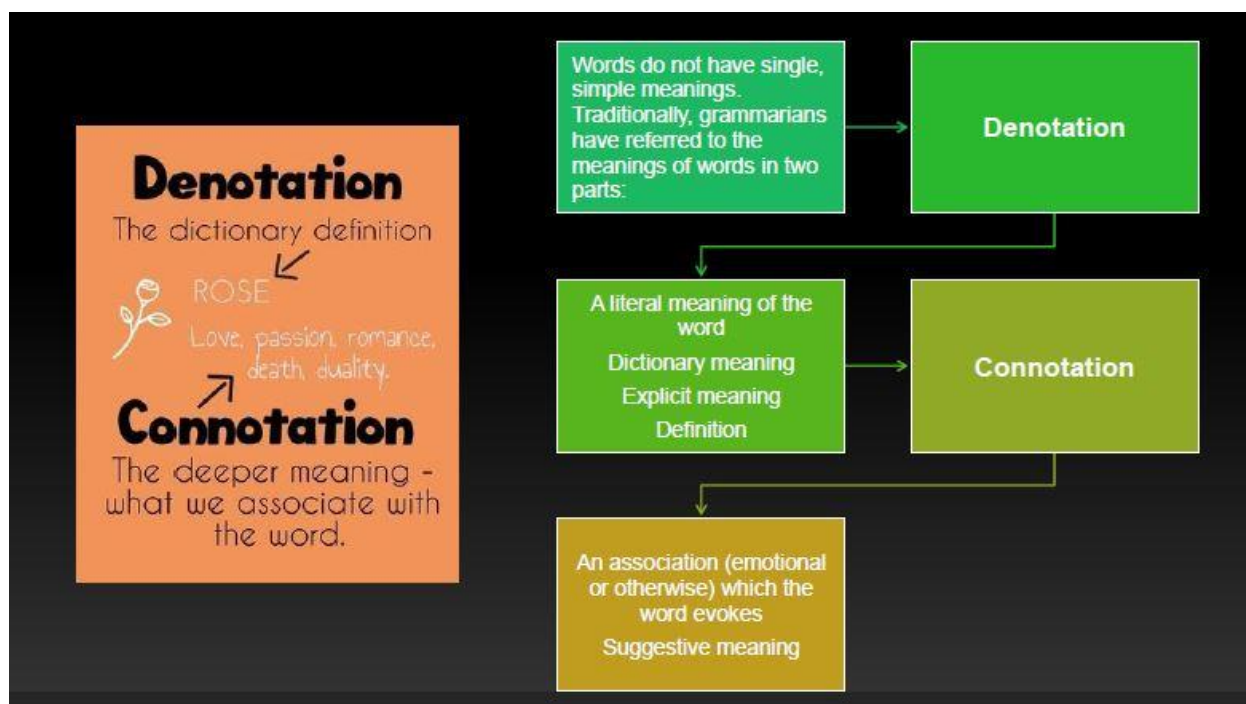
When we use compounding, we link together two or more bases to create a new word.

Nouns: *car park, rock*
Band

Adjectives: *heartbreaking, sugar-free*

Verbs: *baby-sit, chainsmoke*

Adverbs: *good-naturedly, nevertheless*



Positive Connotation	Neutral Connotation	Negative Connotation
thrifty	economical	miserly
economical	inexpensive	cheap
exceptional	unusual	strange
youthful	young	childish
illustrious	famous	notorious
slender	thin	skinny
prudent	timid	cowardly
laid-back	inactive	lethargic
persevering	persistent	stubborn
overwrought	nervous	high-strung
up-to-date	new	newfangled
visionary	inventor	dreamer
save	store	hoard
hilarious	laughable	ludicrous
assertive	aggressive	pushy
employment	work	drudgery
strategy	plan	scheme
fragrance	small	stench

CONNOTATIONS CAN BE

+ POSITIVE

Thrifty: Jay is very careful about spending money. He is very thrifty.

- NEGATIVE

Miserly: Jay's boss is miserly. He doesn't share profits with the team.

= NEUTRAL

Economical: Jay moved to a smaller apartment as it was more economical in the long run.

Stress in words –

Stress Patterns

Stress patterns in words are mostly unpredictable in English. However, some general rules can be applied to many words.

- When a **noun or adjective** stems from a one-syllable word, (*for example break and friend*), the stress usually stays on the **syllable** of the **original word**.

Example: break – BREAKable, friend – FRIENDly

- With most of the **disyllabic nouns and adjectives**, stress is on the **first syllable**.

Examples: Nouns

PRE-sent

TI-ger

BREAK-fast

Adjectives

HAND-some

EA-sy,

HA-ppi|

- With most **disyllabic verbs**, stress is on the **last syllable**.

Example: in-CREASE, be-GIN

- To differentiate between a **noun** and a **verb** with the same spelling, **stress position changes**.

Example: a DEcrease (Noun) to deCREASE (Verb)

an OBject (Noun) to obJECT (Verb)

- In **compound nouns** (two words merged into one) the stress is on the **first part**.

Example: BOOKshop, NOTEbook

- The words ending in **-TION**, **-SION** and **-CIAN** are usually stressed on the **second last syllable**.

Example: e-du-CA-tion, per-MIS-sion, phy-SI-cian

- Words ending with **-IC** are usually stressed on the **second last syllable**.

Example: rea-LIS-tic, stra-TE-gic

- Words ending with **-ee** or **-oo** are usually stressed on the last syllable. Example: gau-rent-EE, shamp-OO

- Note: When in doubt, do not stress. It is better to not stress than stress the wrong syllable.

Plural –

Rule—

- The rule is:
 - /Z/ becomes /S/ (in the environment of /p/, /t/, /k/)
 - Everywhere else it remains /z/.
 - The reason for this is the following: /p/, /t/, and /k/ are voiceless sounds, where /z/ is a voiced sound. In the environment of a voiceless sound, a voiced plural marker becomes voiceless.

Rules:

- Voiceless stops are aspirated at the beginning of a word, and at the beginning of a stressed syllable.
- Voiceless stops are unaspirated at the beginning of an unstressed syllable. They're also unaspirated in any other position, like at the end of a syllable or the end of a word.
- Even if a syllable is stressed, a voiceless stop is unaspirated if it follows [s].
- Voiced stops are never aspirated. They're always unaspirated.

Aspiration - In phonetics, aspiration is the strong burst of breath that accompanies either the release or, in the case of preaspiration, the closure of some obstruents.

Rules:

- Voiceless stops [/p/, /t/, and /k/] are aspirated at the beginning of a word.
- [/p/, /t/, and /k/] are aspirated at the beginning of a stressed syllable.
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Aspiration in stressed syllables

- department /di PhAART ment/ (3)
- competition /kom pii Thii shan/ (4)

- decrease (v) /di KhRIIZ/ (2)
- decrease (n) /DI kriiz/ (2)
- Institution /in sti Thyu shan/ (4)

Stress on 1st syllable – 2nd syllable unstressed and unaspirated

- Purple /P^hAR pal/
- Practice /P^hRAK tis/
- Circle /SAR kal/
- Turtle /T^hAR tal/
- Sample /SAM pal/
- Temple /T^hEM pal/
- Happy /HAP pi/

2nd syllable stressed – first sound aspirated

- Platonic /plae ThoN ik/ (3)
- Iconic /aai KhON ik/ (3)
- Atomic /ae ThOM ik/ (3)
- Compassion /kom PhAE shan/ (3)
- Complete /Kom PhLIIT/ (2)

