

English Phonemes

When we talk, we use our vocal organs – parts of our mouth and throat, such as our lips, teeth, tongue and larynx (voice box). This whole area of the body is called the vocal tract.

- To make a consonant sound, we position some of our vocal organs together or close to each other. For example,
our lips come together when we make the first sound in the word **pie**.*

- To make a vowel sound, we position the vocal organs further apart. The vocal tract is more open. For example,
the word **I** is pronounced as a vowel sound (the same one as the second sound in **pie**).*

Poll Question

- *English sound system consists of...?*

A. Consonant

B. Vowel

C. Both

English Phonemes

There are **44** sounds in English
Language

➤ **24 Consonants**

➤ **12 Vowels**

□ **07 short vowels**

□ **05 long vowels**

◆ **08 diphthongs (a sound made by gliding
from one vowel sound to another)**

Poll Question

How many sounds do we have in English language ?

A. 14

B. 44

C. 24

D. 8

Consonants

Consonant sounds are produced by partial or full interruption of the breath flow. Consonants give clarity and sharpness to the words. They do the work of making our speech crisp and clear, just like the function of treble in a music system. When you whisper it is consonants that carry forward the sound and the meaning.

- They also convey logic*
- A-Z is the Alphabet*
- B C D are called letters of the alphabet*

Poll Question

Which of the type of sound can be spotted through alphabets ?

A. Consonant

B. Vowel

Consonants

1.	/p/ -	pit	13.	/h/ -	hot
2.	/b/ -	bit	14.	/l/ -	lad
3.	/t/ -	tab	15.	/r/ -	red
4.	/d/ -	dab	16.	/w/ -	wed
5.	/k/ -	cab	17.	/θ/ -	thought
6.	/g/ -	gab	18.	/ð/ -	them
7.	/f/ -	fan	19.	/ʃ/ -	shy
8.	/v/ -	van	20.	/ʒ/ -	treasure
9.	/s/ -	sad	21.	/tʃ/ -	chime
10.	/z/ -	zoo	22.	/dʒ/ -	jam
11.	/m/ -	man	23.	/j/ -	yum
12.	/n/ -	not	24.	/ŋ/ -	sing

Poll Question

man, lemon

no, ten

sing, finger

pet, map

Recognize the type of underlined phonemes .

A. Consonants

B. Vowels

Vowels

Vowels are those sounds during the utterance of which the air escapes freely, without any obstruction. In written English there are 5 vowels

a, e, i, o, u

Definition: *Vowel sounds are sounds that are produced by the un-interrupted flow of air.*

Diphthongs : *Diphthongs are 'gliding vowels', where one vowel sound glides into another one, as a result of the lips or tongue moving. A diphthong is a change in vowel quality, whose sound changes within the same syllable.*

Monophthong : *A vowel with a single sound quality, such as the middle sound in "rat" or "bit". These sounds are made with one tongue position.*

Monophthongs

i: sheep	ɪ ship	ʊ good	u: shoot
e bed	ə teacher	ɜ: bird	ɔ: door
æ cat	ʌ up	ɑ: far	ɒ on

Poll Question

*Recognize the type of
underlined phonemes .*

away, cinemaa

A. Consonants

B. Vowels

Diphthongs

Iə here	eɪ wait	
ʊə tourist	ɔɪ boy	əʊ show
eə hair	aɪ my	aʊ cow

Poll Question

• *English phoneme system include :*

A. Consonants

B. Monophthongs

C. Diphthongs

D. All of the above