

13 Help yourself

Pronunciation: individual sounds reference

English sounds and example spellings

The phonetic symbols are a useful reference when using a dictionary such as the *Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary* (seventh edition).

The bold letters in the examples are pronounced with the relevant sound.

Consonants

p	p en, tri pp ed, sleep
b	b ag, ro bb er, la b
t	t ell, li tt er, fl at
d	d rop, ma dd er, li d
k	c all, bla ck en, lo ok
g	g et, re g ain, blo g
tʃ	ch in, s cr atch ing , se ar ch
dʒ	g ym, en g ineer, en j oyment, en d urance, we d ge
f	p hilosophy, la ugh ter, l ife
v	v et, dri v en, thi v e
θ	th in, ma th ematics, tee th
ð	th eir, soo th ing, ba th e
s	s ell, re ce ive, l ess, la ce
z	z ero, ari s en, la s er, Chi n ese
ʃ	sh oe, wa sh er, ca ch e
ʒ	vi s ion
h	h ot, co h abit
m	m en, dru m mer, cru m b
n	k now, inter n est, si gn
ŋ	in com plete, sin k , si ng
l	l ove, fa ll en, bo tt le
r	r ight, re fe rring
j	y es, y ellow
w	w here, a w ay

Vowels

i:	m e, s ee, l ea f , re ce ive, be lie ve
i	h appy, lo v ely
ɪ	s it, e ntirety, la ugh ing
e	w hen, un t enable
æ	f at, d amage
ɑ:	f ather, d ark, marr
ɒ	g ot, b orrow
ɔ:	saw , or , pour
ʊ	put , could , look
u:	two , through , true , blew , lurid
ʌ	cup , rough
ɜ:	urgent , learn , terminal , dirty
ə	about , doctor , bigger , information
eɪ	day , painter , reign , weigh
əʊ	go , toe , dough , bow , sew
aɪ	my , eye , thigh , tie
ɔɪ	toy , buoy , spoil
aʊ	now , bough
ɪə	near , deer
eə	hair , pear , bare
ʊə	pure , cure