



45 Sounds

of GB English

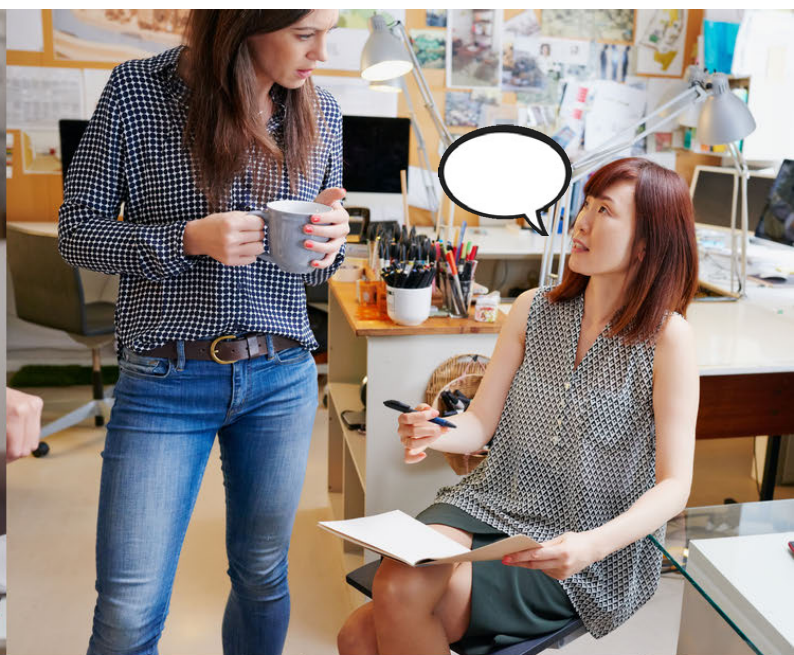
19 Vowel Sounds

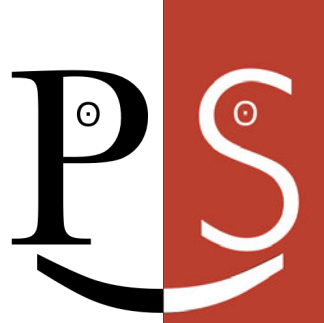
26 Consonant Sounds

Schwa

Silent r

IPA





Introduction



This free ebook is an introduction to the full range of 45 sounds used in GB (General British) English pronunciation. The activities and audio are taken from Pronunciation Studio's full 140 page course book '**The Sound of English**'.

Audio



Everything in this ebook is accompanied by audio - you can download the entire audio pack at pronunciationstudio.com/45-sounds-ebook/, or simply click on the icon where you see it to stream the audio online.

Answer Key



All of the exercises link to the answer key, which is on page 14. Click on the question mark to the right of an activity to go to the answer key, and the arrow in the answer key to return to the activity.



Use

This ebook is a pdf and will work on any device or computer. You can use, share and print it without restriction, we only stipulate that the work must not be sold or altered in any way. For any questions please contact us at info@pronunciationstudio.com

We hope you enjoy the course!

The PS Team.





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45 Sounds IPA Chart

1 i: need	2 ɪ thin	3 e went	4 æ cat
5 ə alive	6 ɜ: third	7 ʌ fun	8 ɑ: car
9 u: few	10 ʊ put	11 ɔ: talk	12 ɒ rob

13 eɪ pay	14 ɔɪ choice	15 aɪ time
16 əʊ no	17 aʊ round	
18 ɪə beer	19 eə care	

20 p pin	21 b bag	22 t time	23 d door	24 k cash	25 g girl	26 ʔ football
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voiceless	voiced
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27 f full	28 v vest	29 θ think	30 ð those	31 s sight	32 z zoo	33 ʃ shirt	34 ʒ pleasure	35 h high
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36 tʃ chase	37 dʒ joy
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38 m mood	39 n now	40 ŋ bang
-----------------	----------------	-----------------

41 w wall	42 j yellow	43 r room	44 l law	45 ɫ pill
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www.pronunciationstudio.com

04 IPA Chart

19 Vowel Sounds

A vowel sound is made by **shaping air** as it leaves the mouth. We use the **articulators** to shape the air - **lips, jaw, tongue**. GB English uses **12 positions** of the mouth.

Front Vowels (tongue towards front)

IPA	common spellings	examples
1 /e/	ee, ea	need beat team
2 /ɪ/	i	thin sit rich
3 /e/	e, ea, ie	went bread friend
4 /æ/	a	cat, hand, fan

Centre Vowels (tongue relatively flat)

5 /a/	a, e, o, u	alive the today supply
6 /ɜ:/	ir, ur, wor	third turn worse
7 /ʌ/	u, o	fun love money
8 /ɑ:/	ar, al, a	car glass half

Back Vowels (tongue pulled back)

9 /ʊ/	ew, oo, o, e	few boot lose
10 /a/	u, oo, ou	put look should
11 /ɔ:/	al, aw, or, oor, oor	talk law port
12 /ɒ/	o, a	rob top watch

26 Consonant Sounds

A consonant sound is made by **blocking the air** as it leaves the mouth. We use the **tongue, lips, teeth, mouth and throat** to block air. Some sounds use the voice (**voiced**), others only air (**voiceless**).

PLOSIVE

type of sound	IPA	examples
a full block of air	20 /p/	pin cap
	21 /b/	bag rob
	22 /t/	time late
	23 /d/	door feed
	24 /k/	cash sock
	25 /g/	girl flag

FRICATIVE

type of sound	IPA	examples
a constant squeeze of air	26 [ʔ]	football
	27 /f/	full knife
	28 /v/	vest cave
	29 /θ/	think earth
	30 /ð/	those bathic
	31 /s/	sight kiss
	32 /z/	zoo nose
	33 /ʃ/	shirt crash
	34 /ʒ/	pleasure
	35 /h/	high

05 Vowel Sounds

07 Consonant Sounds

09 Pronunciation Blog

Silent < r >

Which word contains a pronounced < r >?

bread butter fork

In GB English if an < r > appears **before a vowel sound**, we pronounce it. We do not pronounce < r > if it appears **before a consonant sound**.

Note: in General American English every < r > is pronounced.

Say a word for each picture, containing a silent < r >:



r

'r' - the Strangest Sound in English? In this article from the blog we explore how to pronounce 'r', when it is silent, and when it appears as a linking sound. View article and audio on the Pronunciation Studio blog.

Schwa /ə/

Listen to the words, what do you notice about the underlined sound?

ground manner sailor cactus

The schwa sound /ə/ can be spelt with **any written vowel** (a, e, i, o, u). It is the **most common vowel sound** in English and is **never stressed**. The sound has a **neutral mouth position**:

tongue: central lips: relaxed jaw: mid



Underline the schwa sounds (1 in each word), the first 3 are done:

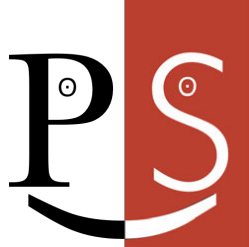
servant perist bacoon picture commit
alive jumper sublime London salad
Peru structure suggest soldier persuade
combine balloon terror cushion
scripture tighten sofa Russia

Practice the words ensuring the unstressed syllable is a schwa.

10 Silent < r >

11 Schwa /ə/

13 What Next?



45 Sounds IPA Chart

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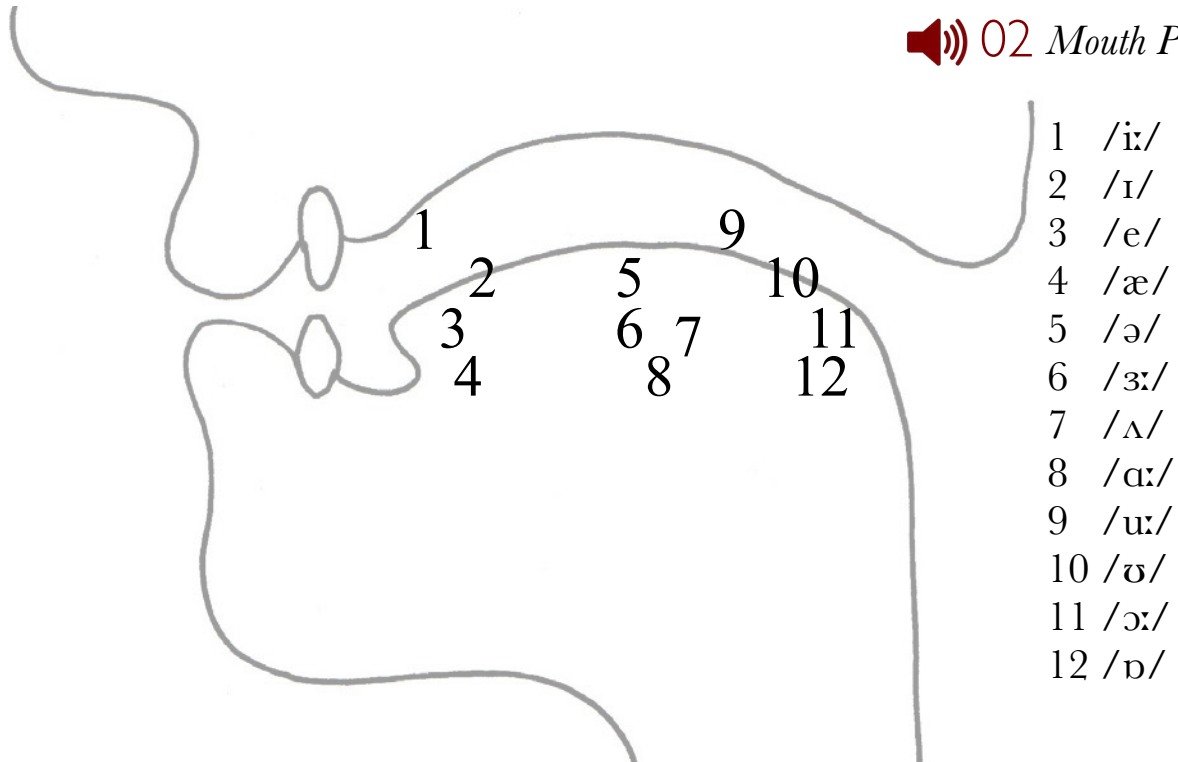
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02 Mouth Positions



Diphthong Vowels

(13-19) move from one position to another:

03

13	/eɪ/	ay, ea, ae, ai	pay great maid
14	/ɔɪ/	oi, oy	noise toy choice
15	/aɪ/	ie, i_e, i, y	fine like might
16	/əʊ/	o, o_e, oa	no stone road
17	/aʊ/	ou, ow	round how brown
18	/ɪə/	eer, ear	beer hear steer
19	/eə/	are, ere, ea, ai	care there bear



English Vowel Length



is often shown with these two triangles but the actual length of each vowel sound changes depending on the level of stress and surrounding sounds.

[View article and audio on the Pronunciation Studio blog.](#)



26 Consonant Sounds



A consonant sound is made by **blocking the air** as it leaves the mouth.

We use the **tongue, lips, teeth, mouth** and **throat** to block air.

Some sounds use the voice (**voiced**), others only air (**voiceless**).



<i>type of sound</i>		IPA	<i>examples</i>
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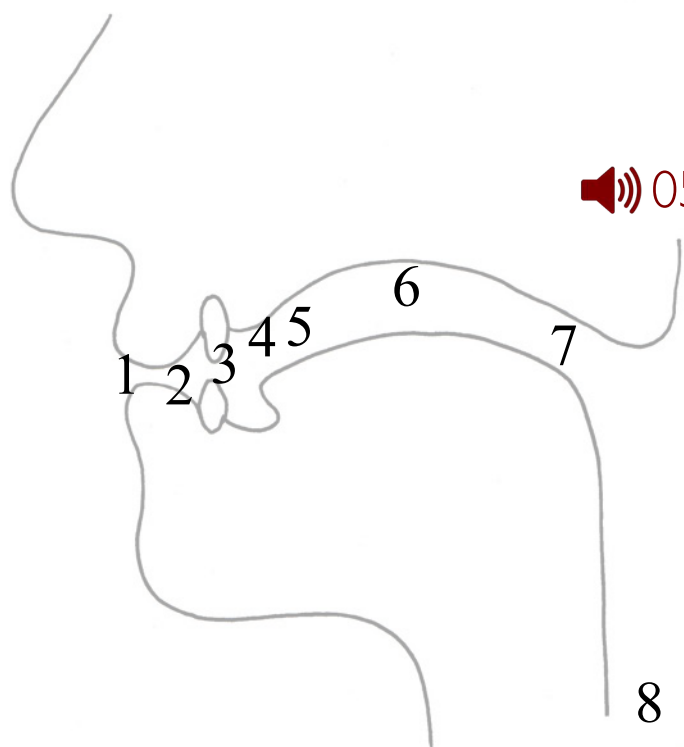
FRICATIVE a constant squeeze of air	27	/f/	full knife
	28	/v/	vest cave
	29	/θ/	think earth
	30	/ð/	those bathe
	31	/s/	sight kiss
	32	/z/	zoo nose
	33	/ʃ/	shirt crash
	34	/ʒ/	pleasure
	35	/h/	high



AFFRICATE plosive + fricative	36	/tʃ/	ch ose cat ch
	37	/dʒ/	j oy st age

NASAL air released through the nose	38	/m/	m ood cal m
	39	/n/	n ow t urn
	40	/ŋ/	ba ng

APPROXIMANT partial block of air, vowel-like	41	/w/	w all
	42	/j/	y ellow
	43	/r/	r oom
	44	/l/	l aw
	45	[ɹ]	p ill



Mouth Positions

Sounds



- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Lips (bilabial) | p b m w ¹ |
| 2 | Lip+Teeth (labiodental) | f v |
| 3 | Tongue (dental) | θ ð |
| 4 | Tongue (alveolar) | t d l ɹ ¹ n r s z |
| 5 | Tongue (post alveolar) | ʃ ʒ tʃ dʒ |
| 6 | Tongue (palatal) | j |
| 7 | Tongue (velar) | k g ŋ ɰ ² w ² |
| 8 | Throat (glottal) | h ʔ |

* /w/ & [ɰ] use 2 positions simultaneously.





The Pronunciation Blog

New articles on different sounds and aspects of pronunciation, intonation and accents. All with audio to practise with:



th

TH - the Tooth Sounds

In-depth look at the 2 dental fricative TH sounds - /θ/ and /ð/.



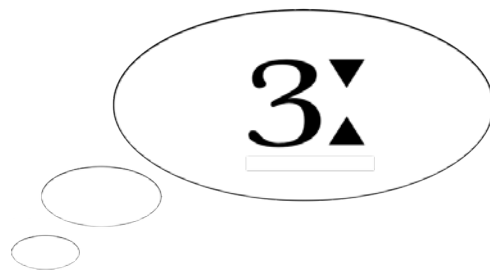
AHH - the Dentist Sound

/ɑː/ is a wide open long vowel - find out all about it here.



SHH - the Whisper Sound

On its own it means 'be quiet', but it's found in many words and a tongue twister!



ER - the Thinking Sound

Often one of the hardest sounds for learners, it's found in WORLD, BIRD and TURN.

View all articles on the [Pronunciation Studio blog](#).

Silent < r >

- Which word contains a pronounced < r >?



bread butter fork

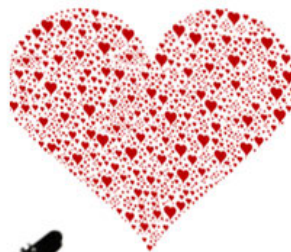


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Schwa /ə/

- Listen to the words, what do you notice about the underlined sound?



around manner sailor cactus

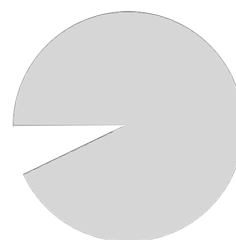
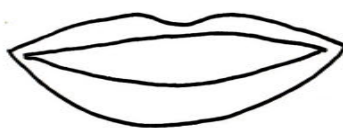
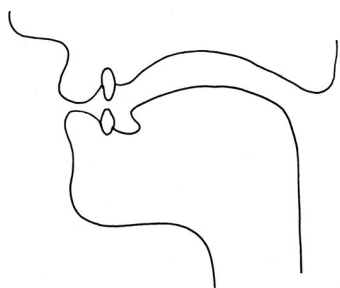


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tongue: **central**

lips: **relaxed**

jaw: **mid**



- Underline the schwa sounds (1 in each word), the first 3 are done:



servant persist baon picture commit

alive jumper sublime London salad

Peru structure suggest soldier persade

combine balloon terror cushion

scripture tighten sofa Russia



- Practise the words ensuring the unstressed syllable is a schwa.



Schwa Words

- Listen and read the passage; which words are pronounced with schwa?



“I’d like tə go shopping fər ə pair əf shoes, bət thə shops ə closed becəʊs thəs ə weathər əlert. əpərrəntli lɒts əf snəʊ is kʌmɪŋ ɪn frəm thə Hɪghlænds sɒ thə gəvənmənt həv ədvaɪst peopəl tə stəɪ ət hoʊm.”

?



Little grammatical words (**function words**) are normally **unstressed**. Many function words are pronounced with schwa when unstressed/weak.



- Listen and fill in the missing word - it is pronounced with a schwa:



- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. I went ____ work early. | 5. ____ weren't enough drinks. |
| 2. What ____ you doing? | 6. Where ____ we buy a map? |
| 3. ____ it warm in Greece? | 7. ____ car's broken down. |
| 4. This card's ____ my family. | 8. I'll repeat ____ the last time! |

?



London - a Pronunciation Guide

From horribly difficult place names like 'Leicester Square' and 'Borough' to food and accents it's all in this guide (and there are plenty of schwas too!

View article and audio on the [Pronunciation Studio blog](#)





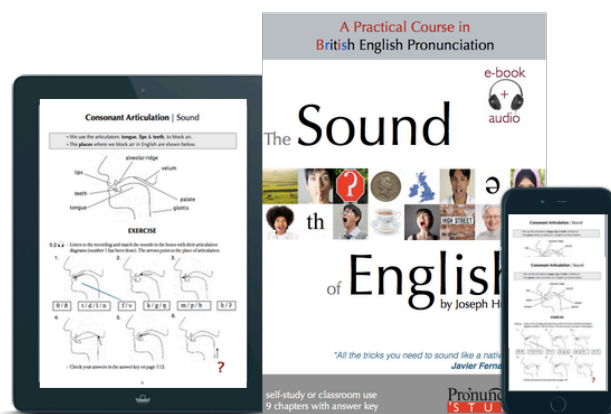
What Next?



Intro Class

Learn and practise the 45 sounds of GB English with a Pronunciation Studio teacher, either in our studios in London or online via Skype. The lesson is 60 minutes and includes the full course book - [info](#) and [booking](#).

Course Book



The full course book 'The Sound of English' is a 140 page course in the sounds, structures and intonation of GB English. You can download it as an [ebook with audio](#) (£14.99) or order it as a [book + 3CDs](#) (£19.99).

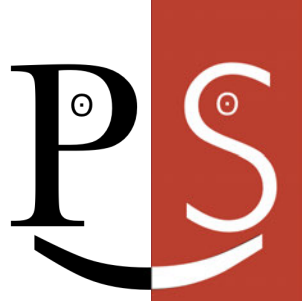
Courses

- [Group Courses](#) (max 8/class) - intensive and weekly options.
- [Individual Training](#) (121) - flexible timetables.
- [Online Individual Training](#) (via Skype) - anywhere in the world.

Contact

If you have any questions, please get in touch. Our email address is info@pronunciationstudio.com. Our teachers run a daily consultation Monday to Friday 14:00-16:00, so please feel free to call or visit.





Answer Key

↑ Silent < r >

- **bread** /'bred/ contains a pronounced < r >
- **butter** /'bʌtə/ & **fork** /'fɔ:k/ both contain a silent < r >
- flower**r** /'flaʊə/ earth /'ɜ:θ/ heart /'hɑ:t/ four**r** /'fɔ:/
door**r** /'dɔ:/ guitar**r** /gɪ'tɑ:/ shirt /'ʃɜ:t/ chair**r** /'tʃeə/

↑ Schwa

- They are the same sound /ə/:
around /ə'raʊnd/ manner /'mænə/ sailor /'seɪlə/
cactus /'kæktəs/
- servant persist bacon picture commit alive jumper
sublime London salad Peru structure suggest soldier
persuade combine balloon terror cushion scripture
tighten sofa Russia

↑ Schwa Words

FUNCTION WORDS: to, for, a, of, but, the, are, because, there's, a,
of, from, the, the, have, to, at

CONTENT WORDS: weather, alert, apparently, Highlands,
government, advised, people



/ˈθæŋks/