

SYLLABUS FOR PHONICS COURSE

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International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

The **International Phonetic Alphabet**, or **IPA** in short, will help you learn how to pronounce correctly each and every word in English! But first, you need to learn what it is, and how to use it.

The English language may have only 26 letters, but it has over 40 different sounds! You need to be familiar with each sound, and its proper pronunciation in order for you to speak natural English.

SOME DEFINITIONS

The system of symbols is called **International Phonetic Alphabet**, or **IPA** in short.

Phonetic means "using special signs to represent the sounds of speech". It comes from the Greek word *phone* which means "sound".

Vowel is a sound we make when the breath flows out through the mouth freely, without being blocked. The English letters a, e, i, o, u are called vowels, because they represent such sounds.

It comes from the Latin word *vox* which means "voice".

Diphthong is a vowel sound made by pronouncing two vowels quickly one after the other. For example, the vowel sound in "loud" is a diphthong. It comes from the Latin word *diphthongus* which means "two sounds".

Consonant is a sound we make that is not a vowel. The breath is somehow blocked on its way out of the mouth. For example, the sound B is made when breath flow is stopped with the lips. All the English letters which are not vowels are called consonants. These are: b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z.



VOWELS

Long

/a:/ balm, father, far, arm, palm

/æ/ bad, pat, cat, black, hat

/i:/ bead, peat, see, heat, feet

/3:/ earn, learn, shirt, world, nurse

/<code>Jː/</code> bawd, paw, caught, law, call

/u:/ blue, food, too, shoe, movie

Short

 $/\Lambda$ bud, nut, luck, but, cup

/e/ bed, pet, met, net, led

/I/ did, pit, ship, hit, sit

/ə/ color, letter, alone, ago

/**p**/ bod, pot, cot, rock, sock

/**v**/ good, foot, put, could, book

Diphthong

Voiced

/b/ but, web, bad, lab, bow

/d/ do, odd, day, did, lady

/v/ voice, have, five, value, vein

/ð/ this, breathe, father

/w/ we, queen, wet, window

/j/ yes, yellow, yawn, yen

/l/ left, bell, look, leg, little

/r/ run, very, red, try, raw

/g/ go, get, beg, give, flag

Voiceless

/p/ pen, spin, tip, pet, map

/t/ two, sting, bet, tea, top

/f/ fool, enough, leaf, off, photo

 $/\theta/$ thing, teeth, think, both, bath

/s/ see, city, pass, sun, miss

/ʃ/ she, sure, emotion, leash, session

/tʃ/ chair, nature, teach, check, church

/h/ ham, ahead, hand, heavy

/k/ cat, kill, skin, queen, thick

Nasal Sounds

/m/ man, ham, moon, me, mind

/n/ no, tin, ten, name, nine

 $/\eta$ / ring, sing, sting, cling, zing

/**Z**/ zoo, rose, lazy, zinc, zit

/dʒ/ gin, joy, edge, just, large