

Tutorial 3 Vowels¹

September 26, 2024

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this tutorial, you should be able to:

- Identify vowel sounds using their four-way articulatory description
- Identify vowel sounds in English words
- Transcribe vowel sounds in English words

You may want to have your Lecture 4 notes with you as you go through the activities.

Articulatory description of vowel sounds

The link below takes you to an online game to help you practice symbols and terminology related to the articulatory description of vowel sounds (height, backness, tenseness, rounding).

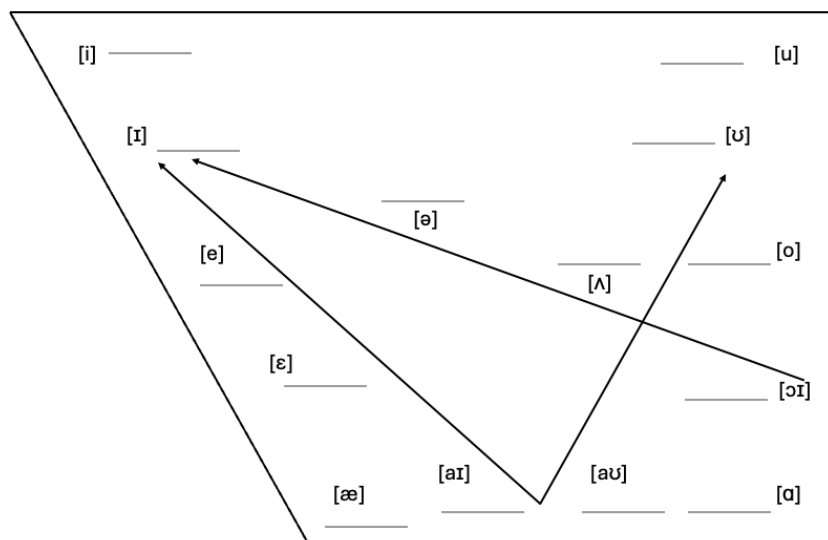
Basic Vowel Match Game (match the IPA vowel symbols and descriptions)

https://www.flippity.net/mg.php?k=16D9O1I1Y4APxfu8IVqoGMuLNL2_LirHDbUotbi9yIeE

Vowel sounds in English words

Consider the slang terms in English below. Write the word in the appropriate blanks on the vowel chart next to the IPA symbol for the vowel sound that word has. For longer words, the relevant orthographic representation (i.e., spelling) corresponding to the vowel sound is underlined.

vibes, tea, sus, receipts, shook, flex, slay, slaps, cringe, salty, clout, woke, e-boy, mood



¹ Some of the activities in this tutorial have been adapted from resources created by Professor Nathan Sanders.

Transcribing vowel sounds in common English words

Use your knowledge of the IPA to answer questions 1–5. The first one is already given, as an example.

1. Determine the IPA symbol that represents the vowel sound in the **beginning** of the words...

<i>umbrella</i>	<i>oatmeal</i>	<i>eatery</i>
[ʌ]		

2. Determine the IPA symbol that represents the vowel sound in the **middle** of the words...

<i>acc<u>o</u>rding</i>	<i>ben<u>e</u>fit</i>	<i>an<u>a</u>logy</i>

3. Determine the IPA symbol that represents the vowel sound in the **end** of the words...

<i>sle<u>i</u>gh</i>	<i>d<u>e</u>w</i>	<i>alg<u>a</u>e</i>

4. The words below are often pronounced with syllabic consonants. Identify the syllabic consonant and determine the IPA symbol (hint: what diacritic do we use to indicate syllabicity?)

<i>furn<u>a</u>ce</i>	<i>nati<u>n</u></i>	<i>beet<u>l</u>e</i>

5. **Challenge:** Now that you have experience with transcribing consonants and vowels, transcribe the English words below. Remember to put IPA symbols in square brackets.

English word	Transcription
though	
checking	
shovel	
mix	
DJ	
wreath	

Other resources

The following links take you to additional online games that help you with vowel symbols and their articulatory descriptions:

Basic Vowel Memory Match Game

https://www.flippity.net/mg.php?k=1CXw5IP9AUZ0k_qHbbBGYnj6ImrLQ_CSiiDZJODqeivM

Advanced Vowel Match Game

https://www.flippity.net/mg.php?k=124JOyElRCrc3p6uk1jy9XFf1HBf_zXkhCbpZGy_O9VU

Advanced Vowel Memory Match Game

https://www.flippity.net/mg.php?k=173S9xismduK6_DhzVVolT2UNVJaImG1ZHF6986OBQ00