

Phonemes

FS

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Chapter 1

Vowels

1.1 "Nacho" sound /ʌ/

Handwritten notes in red ink: "Oso" and "ə - weak", "ʌ - stressed".

1. It's found in stressed syllables.
(The schwa is found in weak syllables)

2. Remember that in English, we don't have the "o" sound from Spanish, so it's either the "nacho" sound, or another sound.

Diagram showing the IPA symbol /ʌ/ with a red triangle above it, labeled "as in 'us'".

THE "NACHO" SOUND

[Click here to listen](#)

Word	IPA	Word	IPA
Us	/ʌs/	Touch	/ˈtʌtʃ/
Cup	/ˈkʌp/	Bus	/ˈbʌs/
Dumb	/ˈdʌm/	Another	/əˈnʌðər/
Month	/ˈmʌnθ/	Other	/ˈʌðər/
Blood	/ˈblʌd/	Wonderful	/ˈwʌndəfəl/
Refund	/ˈriːfʌnd/	Come	/ˈkʌm/
Country	/ˈkʌntri/	Luck	/ˈlʌk/
Cousin	/ˈkʌzən/	Cut	/ˈkʌt/
Customer	/ˈkʌstəmə/	Love	/ˈlʌv/

Money	/ˈmʌni/	Young	/ˈjʌŋ/
Mother	/ˈmʌðər/	Enough	/ɪˈnʌf/
Some	/sʌm/	Much	/ˈmʌtʃ/
Fun	/fʌn/	Run	/ˈrʌn/

- He didn't tell **us** anything.
- Sorry, but I broke **another** cup.
- Honestly, that's a **dumb** idea.
- I don't think we have **enough** money for the trip.
- How **much** **honey** do you want for your pancakes?
- You always **run** out of time so you miss the **bus** every time.
- You're too **young** to go. Though **luck**, **buddy**.
- Can I get you **another** cup of coffee?
- How many **countries** have you visited with your cousin?
- I'm having so much fun here! It's a **wonderful** place to live.
- I can't see **blood**, so don't show me the **cut** on your finger.
- I **just** need **some** **money** to take **another** **bus**.

1.2 "Ah" sound /ɑ/

got
/ɑ/

1. It's similar to the sound of the letter **"a"** in Spanish.

2. It's a stressed sound.

3. It's usually found on the letter **"o"** as in **"hot"**, but it can also be in the letter **"a"** as in **"want"**

/ɑ/

as in "got"

THE **"AH"** SOUND

[Click here to listen](#)

Word	IPA	Word	IPA
Hot	/hat/	Job	/dʒab/
Cop	/kap/	Opportunity	/,apə'tu:nəti/
Got	/gat/	John	/dʒan/
Boss	/bas/	Not	/nat/
Top	/tap/	Document	/'dakjəmənt/
Want	/want/	Doctor	/'daktə/
Box	/baks/	Stop	/stap/
Wash	/waf/	Possible	/'pasəbəl/
Bob	/bab/	Problem	/'prabləm/
Bottle	/'batəl/	Body	/'badi/
Calm	/kam/	Lock	/lak/
Concert	/'kansət/	Option	/'apʃən/
Clock	/klak/	Honest	/'anəst/
Follow	/'faləʊ/	Topic	/'təpɪk/
Dollar	/'dalə/	Product	/'prɒdʌkt/
Drop	/drap/	Pocket	/'pəkət/

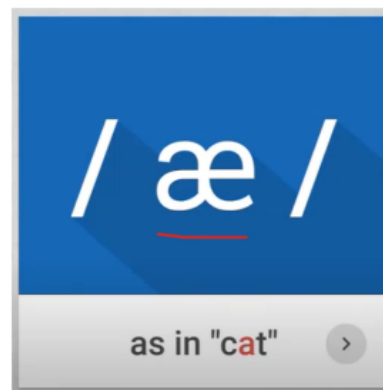
- I don't want to go out it's too **hot** outside.
- **John** **got** a new **job**, so now he works as a **cop**.
- That's **not** a **problem** at all.
- **Oscar**, can you put the paper in a box and leave it outside?

- I just bought an **a**partment and I have all the **d**ocuments.
- Should I be in class today? Or should I go to the **d**octor?
- Can you **s**top making all that noise?
- Is it **p**ossible to get this done today?
- I'm sorry, but that's **n**ot an **o**ption.
- Could you **d**rop Andy at Anna's house?
- **B**ob is the new **b**oss and he has a lot of **p**roblems to fix at the **o**ffice.
- The customer says he got an incorrect **p**roduct. What should I do?
- I'm not awake enough to pay attention to this **t**opic today.
- I'm going to be **h**onest; I took a few **d**ollars you had in your **p**ocket.
- Make sure you **f**ollow the **p**rocess correctly this time.

1.3 "Pretzel" sound /æ/



1. It's a stressed sound.
2. It's found on the letter "a" as in "cat".
3. It's a nasal sound.



THE "PRETZEL"
SOUND



[Click here to listen](#)

Word	IPA	Word	IPA
Cat	/ˈkæt/	Cap	/ˈkæp/
Hat	/ˈhæt/	Fast	/ˈfæst/
Man	/ˈmæn/	Example	/ɪɡˈzæmpəl/
Add	/ˈæd/	Accident	/ˈæksədənt/
Manager	/ˈmænədʒər/	Saturday	/ˈsæt̬. dɪ/
Apple	/ˈæpəl/	Family	/ˈfæməli/
Ask	/ˈæsk/	Class	/ˈklæs/
Back	/ˈbæk/	Last	/ˈlæst/
Bad	/ˈbæd/	Habit	/ˈhæbɪt/
Sad	/ˈsæd/	Answer	/ˈænər/
Jacket	/ˈdʒækət/	Animal	/ˈænəməl/
Past	/ˈpæst/	Catch	/ˈkætʃ/

- That man loves putting hats on his fat cat.
- There was an accident on my way back from work.
- I have an important test on Saturday, so I can't hang out with you.
- Is that an apple pie? I'm starving, and it smells delicious.
- Why are you eating like an animal? Slow down a little bit.

- The **last** time I gave you my **jacket**, you lost it.
- My **family** is going to **gather** around and **catch** up on **Saturday**.
- I don't want to talk to another **manager**. I just need an **answer**.
- **That man** told me a story, but it doesn't **add** up.
- Eating when you're **sad** and bored isn't a good idea.
- I **had** an **accident last** week.
- I'll be **back** as soon as I **can**.
- If you need an **example**, google it.
- The cop got all the **answers** without **asking** anything.

1.4 "EH" sound as in "bet" /e/

1. It's just like the sound we have in Spanish. *e - longer*

2. It can be found in the following words:

- **e** as in **bed**.
- **ea** as in **head**.
- **ie** as in **friend**
- **a** as in **many**. *e*

as in "bed"

THE "SPANISH EH" SOUND

[Click here to listen](#)

Word	IPA	Word	IPA
Bed	/bɛd/	Yell	/jɛl/
Get	/gɛt/	Men	/mɛn/
Head	/hɛd/	Debt	/dɛt/
Friend	/frɛnd/	Yet	/jɛt/
Again	/ə'geɪn/	Mention	/'menʃən/
Met	/mɛt/	Second	/'sekənd/
Said	/sed/	Credit	/'kredɪt/
Says	/sez/	Seven	/'sevn/
Let	/lɛt/	Sweater	/'swetər/
Sell	/sɛl/	Swear	/'swɛr/
Tell	/tɛl/	Celebrity	/'seləbrɪtɪ/
Fell	/fɛl/	Bread	/'brɛd/
Well	/wɛl/	Breath	/'breθ/

A: So, what time did you **go to bed** last night?

B: I **went to bed** at 1 am because I was playing videogames. And you? What time do you usually go to **bed**?

A: My brother got into a lot of **debts** because he loves using his **credit** card.

B: Yeah, doing that isn't a good idea. Do you think it's necessary to **get** into **debts** by using a **credit** card?

A: Teams is suck again! I think I'm going to lose my **head** today.

B: I know that Teams is annoying, but don't lose your **head**. Just take a deep **breath**. What other things make you lose your **head** sometimes?

A: Sorry, I didn't hear anything you **said**. What are we supposed to do?

B: You always have your **head** in the clouds when you're in class. Why are you so distracted?

A: I like my new job, and I'm making a lot of **friends** already.

B: Really? I'm not good at making **friends** with people. Any suggestions?

A: I **met** up with an old friend last week. He **said** he's been traveling a lot.

B: Oh, I see. Personally, I don't think I would enjoy **travelling** so often. And you?

A: Can you give me a **second**? I need to restart my router again.

B: No problem. **Let** me know **when** you're back.

A: Are you ok? You're out of **breath**.

B: Yeah, I had to take the **steps**. I **guess** I need to do more exercise. How often do you exercise?

A: **Ben says** he **fell** in love with a girl last month and that he's going to marry her.

B: He always **says** that. I **bet** she's going to break up with him in a few weeks.

A: I hate this **weather**. I **sweat** all the time and I'm always thirsty.

B: Oh I know. I feel like taking a shower **again** and **again** when the day is hot.

A: Can you **lend** me Q1,000? I swear I'm going to pay you in a few days.

B: **Again**? Why do you always **get** into **debts**? Sorry, but I can't **lend** you any more money.

A: I need to **get better** at remembering vocabulary. I'm lost.

B: Yeah I know, but it takes time and practice. **We're** doing fine.

1.5 "AW" sound as in "thought" /ɔ/

0

1. Think of it as a "deep" version of the "ah" sound. ah a

2. It can be found in the following words:

- The aw as in Saw a
- The ou as in Bought o
- The au as in Cause o

THE "SAD FACE" SOUND

bpo

Click here to listen

Word	IPA	Word	IPA
Bought	'bɒt	Fault	'fɒlt
Draw	'dɹɔ	Fought	'fɒt
Saw	'sɔ	Daughter	'dɔtəɹ
Brought	'brɔt	Lawyer	'lɔ.əɹ
Call	'kɒl	Law	'lɔ
Caught	'kɒt	August	,ɔ'gəst
Taught	'tɒt	Author	'ɔθəɹ
Thought	'θɒt	Talk	'tɒk
Cause	'kɔz	Walk	'wɒk
Cough	'kɒf	Awesome	'ɔsəm
Dawn	'dɔn	Audio	'ɔ.di.ʊ
Dog	'dɒg	Awful	'ɒfəl
Fall	'fɒl	Fraud	'frɔd

A Why did you buy a new phone? Don't you have one already?

B Well, I **bought** a new phone because I'm going to give it to my mom. She said she wanted to learn how to use one.

A I didn't know you could **draw**. These are amazing!

B Thanks! I've been practicing for months now, and I want to become a professional artist.

A I **saw** you yesterday and I waved my hand, but you didn't say hi. Why did you ignore me?

B Oh I **thought** you were someone else. Sorry, but didn't have my glasses, so I didn't recognize you.

A I'm sorry for forgetting your birthday last month, but I **brought** you some pizza!

B I'm still angry with you, but since I love pizza I will forgive you for now.

A So George, who's your favorite **author**?

B Honestly, reading isn't my cup of tea, so I really don't know any **authors**.

A George **caught** me sleeping in class, and I couldn't come up with an excuse.

B I **thought** you were going to start going to bed earlier in order to have more energy for the class. What happened?

A Did you really play videogames until **dawn**? How are you going to be awake for the class ?

B Relax, George, I just need a RedBull, a Raptor and a coffee, and I'll be just fine.

A I paid \$1,000.00 for the Iphone 16 on Facebook Marketplace, but now the vendor isn't answering my messages.

B How could you **fall** for that? It was clearly a scam. Sorry, but that money is now gone.

A Did you hear about John? He got **caught** red-handed stealing money from customers.

B Really? I never **thought** he would break the **law**. What's going to happen to him now ?

A So, how did the date go?

B Oh it was **awful**! I was stood up, so I didn't even meet the person.

A Well, I thought the movie was going to be **awesome**, but it was disappointing.

B I **saw** it last week and I **thought** it was just OK.

A Why are you mad at me? It wasn't my **fault** that you got an F on your test.

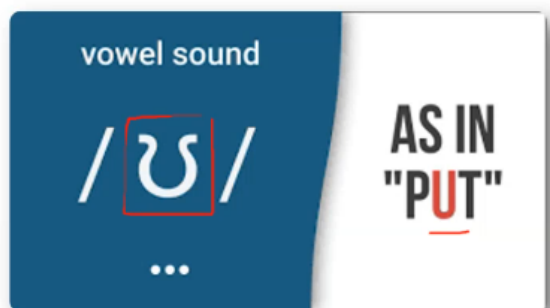
B Of **course** it was your **fault**! You knew we would have a surprise test and you didn't tell me.

1.6 "UH" sound as in "book" / ʊ /

1. It's 90% neutral, similar to the "nacho" sound or the schwa.

2. It's mostly found on the letter:

- oo as in "good"
- u as in "sugar"



THE
"HORSESHOE"
SOUND

[Click here to listen](#)

Word	IPA	Word	IPA
F ull	/ˈfʊl/	S hould	/ˈʃʊd/
P ut	/ˈpʊt/	W ould	/ˈwʊd/
P ull	/ˈpʊl/	C ookie	/ˈkʊki/
S ugar	/ˈʃʊɡəɪ/	T ook	/ˈtʊk/
B ook	/ˈbʊk/	P ush	/ˈpʊʃ/
C ook	/ˈkʊk/	W oman	/ˈwʊmən/
F oot	/ˈfʊt/	C hild h ood	/ˈtʃaɪld.hʊd/
G ood	/ˈɡʊd/	C ushion	/ˈkʊʃən/
L ook	/ˈlʊk/	B ully	/ˈbʊli/
C ould	/ˈkʊd/	H oodie	/ˈhʊdi/

- You **took** my **hoodie**, didn't you? Why do yo always take my clothes?
- I think I have a problem with **sugar**, I can't stop eating sweet things. Do you have the same problem?
- What's a **childhood** memory that you cherish? For example, I used to visit my grandma a lot when I was a child.
- In your opinion, what's a thing we **should** do more often to improve our fluency?
- What kind of shift are you looking for right now? An AM shift or a PM shift?
- I'm not **good** at using Excel, although I think I **should** learn to use it. What about you?

- Do you like **books** or movies? If, so, what kind of movies or **books** are you into?
- What's a thing that **puts** you in a **good** mood? A song, a snack, a show?
- Is it true that we're going to leave early today or are you just **pulling my leg**?
- **Would** you like to go to the movies tonight? I have two tickets.
- I hurt my **foot** while I was walking and now it's swollen. What do you recommend?
- My cousin is so **full** of himself. He's always talking about his achievements and how great he is. Do you know anyone like that?

Chapter 2

Consonants

2.1 "TH" sound /ð/ (as in *that, those, they*)



[Click here to listen](#)

Word	IPA	Word	IPA
That	'ðæt	Together	tə'geðəɪ
Than	'ðæn	Either	'iðɪ
They	'ðeɪ	Those	'ðoʊz
Father	'fɑðəɪ	Leather	'leðəɪ
Mother	'mʌðəɪ	Other	'ʌðəɪ
Brother	'brʌðəɪ	Another	ə'nʌðəɪ
Feather	'feðəɪ	Breathe	'bri:ð
Weather	'weðəɪ	(Even) Though	'ðoʊ

G ather	'gæðəɪ	C lo th ing	'kloʊðɪŋ
R ather	'ɹæðəɪ	S mo oth	'smu:ð

Even **though the weather** has been very cold **these** days, our family is going to get **together** for dinner. It's just **another** tradition **that** we have.

First, our **father** prepares some hot chocolate for everybody. **Then** our **mother** bakes some delicious cookies. And, believe it or not, my **brother** cooks some delicious pizza.

We **gather** around the fireplace in our living room and we **either** play board games or watch a movie. We do **other** activities like telling scary stories or playing Pictionary.

I **rather** play board games because it's more interactive and we laugh more, but watching a movie is also a good option.

When the **weather** gets better, we go out and **breathe** the fresh air. **These** are some of the moments I always appreciate, and **whether** I'm young or old, I will always remember **them**.

2.2 "SH" sound /ʃ/

/s/ As in see

/ʃ/ As in she

sh

The **/ʃ/** is usually spelled as "**sh**" at the beginning or end of a word. However, there it can be found in other combinations:

1. **ti**: Information, demonstration. *Shən*
2. **ci**: Special, delicious, musician. *Shən*
3. **ssi**: Russia, discussion. *Shən*

There are some unusual spellings like:

- Sure, sugar, tissue, champagne, Chicago, ocean, Sean.

Aw-shən

- She should shake the dirt off her shoes.
- Shannon shout at Sharon.
- She should show her talent without shame.
- Let's share some champagne after the musician's show.
- Tell Sean to shush Sheldon.

[Click here to listen](#)

Word	IPA	Word	IPA
Invitation	/ɪnvi'teɪʃən/	Session	/ˈseɪʃən/
Solution	/səˈluːʃən/	Condition	/kən'dɪʃən/
Beneficial	/benə'fɪʃəl/	Repetition	/repi'tɪʃən/
Artificial	/ɑrtə'fɪʃəl/	Retention	/rɪ'tenʃən/
Financial	/faɪ'nænʃəl/	Medication	/medɪ'keɪʃən/
Official	/ə'fɪʃəl/	Mention	/ˈmɪʃən/
Special	/ˈspeɪʃəl/	Nation	/ˈneɪʃən/
Social	/ˈsoʊʃəl/	Compensation	/kəm pən'seɪʃən/
Suspicious	/sə'spɪʃəs/	Issue	/ˈɪʃə/
Delicious	/dɪ'lɪʃəs/	Machine	/mə'ʃɪn/
Precious	/ˈpreɪʃəs/	Michigan	/ˈmɪʃɪɡən/
Registration	/redʒɪ'stɪʃən/	Lotion	/ˈləʊʃən/
Identification	/aɪ,dɪfɪ'keɪʃən/	Chef	/ˈʃef/
Administration	/əd'mɪnɪ'stɪʃən/	Ocean	/ˈoʊʃən/
Congratulations	/kən,grætʃə'leɪʃən z/	Patient	/ˈpeɪʃən/
Investigation	/,ɪn,vɛs,tɪ'geɪʃən/	Patience	/ˈpeɪʃəns/
Communication	/kə,mju'neɪʃən/	Shure	/ˈʃʊr/
Direction	/daɪ'rekʃən/	Promotion	/prə'moʊʃən/
Pronunciation	/prənɪ'si eɪʃən/	Appreciate	/ə'pri fi ːe ɪt/
Discussion	/dɪ'skʌʃən/	Pressure	/ˈpreʃər/
Expression	/ek'spreɪʃən/	Mention	/ˈmɪʃən/

Obsession	/ əb 's ɛʃən/	Conversation	/kənvə'seɪʃən/
Mission	/ 'mɪʃən/	Dedication	/dɛdɪ'keɪʃən/
Passion	/ 'pæʃən/		

- I got an **invitation**.
- What's the **solution**?
- We have **financial** problems.
- Let's have a **conversation**.
- Follow the **registration** process.
- Great **pronunciation**.
- A new **expression**.
- I have **retention** skills.
- **She's** on **medication**.
- There's a new **issue**.
- He wants some **compensation**.
- Thank you for your **patience**, I **appreciate** it.
- I heard you got a **promotion**. **Congratulations**.
- Don't **mention** it.

2.3 "ZH" Sound (/ʒ/)

consonant sound

1. **V**ision


2. **D**ecision

3. Plea**s**ure

4. Ga**r**age

5. Occa**s**ion

6. Tele**v**ision



AS IN
"VISION"

Click here to listen

Word	IPA	Word	IPA
V ision	/ˈvɪʒən/	L eisure	/ˈliʒə/
D ecision	/dɪˈsɪʒən/	O ccasion	/əˈkeɪʒən/
M easure	/ˈmeɪʒə/	P recision	/prɪˈsɪʒən/
U sual	/ˈjuʒəl/	T ele v ision	/ˈteləvɪʒən/
M assage	/məˈsɑːʒ/	V ersion	/ˈvɜːʒən/
B eige	/beɪʒ/	C onfusion	/kənˈfjuːʒən/
A sia	/ˈeɪʒə/	I llusion	/ɪˈluːʒən/
C onclusion	/kənˈkluːʒən/	S upervision	/ˌsuːpərˈvɪʒən/
D ivision	/dɪˈvɪʒən/	T reasure	/ˈtreɪʒə/
G arage	/ɡəˈrɑːʒ/	G enre	/ˈʒɑːn.ə/
P leasure	/ˈpleɪʒə/	U sually	/ˈjuː.ʒu.əli/

1. I have this **v**ision of starting my own business one day, you know.
2. It was such a **p**leasure meeting you today!
3. Have you made a **d**ecision about the job offer?
4. I'm in total **c**onfusion right now. I don't understand this assignment.
5. Do you **u**sually watch a lot of **t**ele**v**ision?
6. Have you heard the acusting **v**ersion of this song?
7. I'll check it out. I love when songs have different **v**ersions.
8. What's your favorite movie **g**en**r**e?

9. You should take it to the **garage** before it gets worse.
10. Do you **usually** wake up this early?
11. Hey, do you want your **usual** coffee order?
12. Of course! It's a special **occasion**.
13. Have you ever been to **Asia**?
14. I really need a **massage**. My back is killing me.
15. Can you work on this project without **supervision**?
16. What **genre** are you in the mood for ?
17. I finally made a **decision** about the apartment.

Chapter 3

Annexes

3.1

Sound	IPA Symbol	TIPA command (for <code>\textipa{}</code>)
Consonants		
Voiceless bilabial plosive	p	p
Voiced bilabial plosive	b	b
Voiceless alveolar plosive	t	t
Voiced alveolar plosive	d	d
Voiceless velar plosive	k	k
Voiced velar plosive	g	g
Bilabial nasal	m	m
Alveolar nasal	n	n
Velar nasal	ŋ	ng
Voiceless labiodental fricative	f	f
Voiced labiodental fricative	v	v
Voiceless dental fricative	θ	texttheta
Voiced dental fricative	ð	dh
Voiceless alveolar fricative	s	s
Voiced alveolar fricative	z	z
Voiceless postalveolar fricative	ʃ	textesh
Voiced postalveolar fricative	ʒ	textyogh
Voiceless glottal fricative	h	h
Voiceless postalveolar affricate	tʃ	ttextesh
Voiced postalveolar affricate	dʒ	dtextyogh
Alveolar approximant	ɹ	textturnr
Palatal approximant	j	j
Labio-velar approximant	w	w
Alveolar lateral approximant	l	l
Vowels		
Close front unrounded vowel	i	i
Near-close near-front unrounded vowel	ɪ	textsci
Close-mid front unrounded vowel	e	e
Open-mid front unrounded vowel	ɛ	textepsilon
Near-open front unrounded vowel	æ	æ
Mid central vowel (schwa)	ə	textschwa
Open-mid back unrounded vowel	ʌ	textturnv