

TABLE OF CONSONANT SOUNDS FOLLOWED BY SHORT VOWELS

Below is a table of words which contain all seven short vowels of English (shaded row 1). Each of these vowels follows the 24 consonants of English, which are listed in the first column (shaded). The most common words with these combinations have been selected. Not all consonant plus short vowel combinations are possible, hence the gaps on the chart.

By saying these words aloud, you not only practise pronouncing these sounds but you can also see how these sounds are commonly represented in English spelling. The letters which represent the vowel sounds are in bold type. From this, it can be seen that English spelling is not wildly erratic, but there are recognisable patterns. These can aid the learner who is trying to guess the pronunciation of an unfamiliar word. The combination of –er at the end of words is always pronounced /ə/ in Received Pronunciation.

	/ɪ/	/e/	/æ/	/ʌ/	/ɒ/	/ʊ/	/ə/
/p/	pit	pet	pat	putt	pot	put	upper
/b/	bit	bet	bat	but	bottom	book	rubber
/t/	tin	ten	tan	tongue	tong	took	butter
/d/	did	dead	dad	duck	dot	-	under
/k/	kilt	Celt	cap	cup	cough	cook	anchor
/g/	gift	get	gap	gun	got	good	anger
/f/	fin	fen	fan	fun	fond	full	forgive
/v/	victor	vet	vat	vulgar	volt	-	over
/θ/	thin	theft	thank	thumb	thong	-	author
/ð/	this	them	that	thus	-	-	other
/s/	sit	set	sat	sun/son	song	forsook	surprise
/z/	zit	Z /zed/	zap!	-	zombie	zucchini	blazer
/ʃ/	ship	shed	sham	shut	shot	should	washer
/ʒ/	-	-	-	-	-	-	vision
/h/	him	hem	ham	hum	hot	hook	hurrah
/tʃ/	chin	chest	chat	chum	chop	chook (rare)	richer
/dʒ/	gin	gel	jam	jump	job	Jurassic	badger
/m/	miss	mess	mass	mother	moth	-	hammer
/n/	knit	net	gnat	nut	not	nook	runner
/ŋ/	singing	-	-	-	-	-	singer
/w/	will	well	whack!	won/one	what	would	/w/+er = triphthong
/l/	lid	led	lad	lunch	lock	look	colour
/r/	rid	red	ran	run	rock	rook	error
/j/	yin	yes	yam	young	yob	-	you (when unstressed)