

THE PHONEMIC SYMBOLS OF ENGLISH: VOWELS

Below is a list of words to help you remember the phonemic symbols and their pronunciation. The stress mark has been included in **polysyllabic** words (words of more than one syllable). Some words are written with a final affix <S> in the plural (cats) or in the third person singular (plays). The final sound of the root form will always affect the way in which s is pronounced.

Short vowel sounds: 7

/æ/ bad /bæd/, hats /hæts/	/ɪ/ wins /wɪnz/, wings /wɪŋz/, winks /wɪŋks/
/ɒ/ dogs /dɒgz/, God /gɒd/, hot /hɒt/, off /ɒf/	/ʌ/ cups /kʌps/ won-wʌn/, wonder /'wʌndə/
/e/ yet /jet/, bed /bed/, said /sed/, bread /bred/	/ʊ/ pull /pʊl/, foot, /fʊt/, look /lʊk/ all -ook,
/ə/ about /ə'baʊt/, ahead /əhed/, other /'ʌðə/	

Long vowel sounds: 5

/ɑː/ dark /dɑːk/, arm /ɑːm/, heart /hɑːt/	/ɜː/ heard /hɜːd/, hurts /hɜːts/, word /wɜːd/
/ɔː/ cord /kɔːd/, sword /sɔːd/, born /bɔːn/	/uː/ rude /ruːd/, chews /tʃuːz/, loses /'luːzɪz/,
/iː/ bees /biːz/, means /miːnz/, sheep /ʃiːp/	

Diphthongs: 8

/eɪ/ may /meɪ/, day /deɪ/, cakes /keɪks/	/ɪə/ ear /ɪə/, here-hear /hɪə/, beard /bɪəd/
/aɪ/ eye-I /aɪ/, my /maɪ/, rice /raɪs/	/ʊə/ pure /pʊə/, cure /kjʊə/
/ɔɪ/ soil /sɔɪ/, boils /bɔɪlz/, toy /tɔɪ/	/əʊ/ oh /əʊ/, no /nəʊ/, don't /dɒnt/, go /gəʊ/
/eə/ air /eə/, bear-bare /beə/, share /ʃeə/ hair-hare /heə/	/aʊ/ cows /kaʊz/, now /naʊ/, how /haʊ/

Triphthongs: 5

/eɪə/ layer /'leɪə/, players /'pleɪəz/, greyer /'greɪə/,	
/aɪə/ liar /'laɪə/, hire-higher /'haɪə/, fires /'faɪəz/, buyers /'baɪəz/, drier-dryer /'draɪə/	
/ɔɪə/ loyal /'lɔɪə/, royal /'rɔɪə/, employer /ɪm'plɔɪə/	
/əʊə/ lower /'ləʊə/ grower /'grəʊə/, mower /'məʊə/	
/aʊə/ showers /'ʃaʊəz/, power /'paʊə/, tower /'taʊə/, flour-flower /'flaʊə/ hour-our /'aʊə/	