

# THE PHONEMIC SYMBOLS OF ENGLISH: CONSONANTS

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.

## Consonants: Plosives: 6

/p/ paw-pore-pour-pour /pɔ:/, punch /pʌntʃ/, pip /pɪp/, pup /pʌp/, pub /pʌb/, speaks /spi:ks/  
/b/ books /bʊks/, bar /bɑ:/, bore-boar /bɔ:/, bored-board /bɔ:d/, verbs /vɜ:bz/, robbers /'rɒbəz/

/t/ tool /tu:l/, torch /tɔ:tʃ/ turned /tɜ:nd/, tight /taɪt/, steal-steel /sti:l/, pet /pet/, bets /betz/

/d/ dead /ded/, deed /di:d/, did /dɪd/, dad /dæd/, died-dyed /daɪd/, dodo /'dɒdʊdʊ/

/k/ kitten /'kɪtən/, cook /kʊk/, carp /kɑ:p/, quick, /kwɪk/, queen /kwi:n/, quit /kwɪt/, quiz /kwɪz/

/g/ got /gɒt/, gone /gɒn/, gun /gʌn/, guard /gɑ:d/, greed /gri:d/, greet /gri:t/, great-grate /greɪt/

## Consonants: fricatives: 9

*The first phoneme in each pair is voiceless*

/f/ frogs /frɒgz/, finger /'fɪŋgə/, full /fʊl/, fool /f u:l/, /flood /flʊd/, half /hɑ:f/, fear /fɪə/, fair-fare /feə/

/v/ victor /'vɪktə/, love /lʌv/ negative /'negətɪv/, cover /'kʌvə/, vacuum /'vækju:m/, have /hæv/

/θ/ thin /θɪŋ/ things /θɪŋz/ thinks /θɪŋks/, baths /bɑ:θs/ north /nɔ:θ/, earth /ɜ:θ/, paths /pɑ:θs/

/ð/ the /ðə/, then /ðen/, that /ðæt/, this /ðɪs/, another /ə'nʌðə/, mother /'mʌðə/ brother /'brʌðə/

/s/ see /si:/, snake /sneɪk/, sauce /sɔ:s/, saws /sɔ:z/, price /praɪs/, race /reɪs/, chaos /keɪs/

/z/ zone /zəʊn/ cheese /tʃi:z/, zero /'zɪərəʊ/, prizes /'praɪzɪz/, rises /'raɪzɪz/, raise-raze /reɪz/

/ʃ/ ships /ʃɪps/, shoes /ʃu:z/, shops /ʃɒps/, sharks /ʃɑ:ks/, sheds /ʃedz/, washes /'wɒʃɪz/

/ʒ/ pleasures /'pleʒəz/, measures /'meʒəz/, treasures /'treʒəz/ visions /'vɪʒənz/

Voiceless

/h/ harp /hɑ:p/, head /hed/, heed /hi:d/, hood /hʊd/, height /haɪt/, hate /heit/, ahead /əhed/

## Consonants: affricates: 2

/tʃ/ Czechs-cheques-checks /tʃeks/, chains /tʃeɪnz/, watches /'wɒtʃɪz/, chooses /'tʃu:zɪz/ chose /tʃəʊz/

/dʒ/ jokes /dʒəʊks/, jam /dʒæm/, gem /dʒem/, judges /'dʒʌdʒɪz/, bridges /'brɪdʒɪz/, Jonah /'dʒəʊnə/

## Consonants: nasals (all voiced): 3

/m/ man /mæn/, men /men/, mean /mi:n/, meant /ment/, mend /mend/ mended /'mendid/  
/n/ nap /næp/, none–nun /nʌn/, nights–knights /naɪts/, noses /'nəʊzɪz/, knees /ni:z/, niece /ni:s/  
/ŋ/ tongue /tʌŋ/, bank /bæŋk/, King Kong /kɪŋ kɒŋ/, ankle /'æŋkl/, uncle /'ʌŋkl/, concrete /'kɒŋkri:t/

### **Consonants: the lateral (voiced): 1**

/l/ schools /sku:lz/ lies /laɪz/, lips /lɪps/, laughs /lɑ:fs/, loves /lʌvz/, kills /kɪlz/, also /'ɔ:lsəʊ/

### **Consonants: approximants (all voiced): 3**

/w/ wet /wet/, waves /weɪvz/, sweets /swi:ts/, sweats /swets/, quite /kwaɪt/, walks /wɔ:ks/  
/r/ rings /rɪŋz/, rabbits /'ræbɪts/, drivers /'draɪvəz/, agrees /ə'gri:z/, prays–praise /preɪz/  
/j/ you /ju:/, yes /jes/, young /jʌŋ/, yawns /jɔ:nz/, queues /kju:z/ yells /jelz/