

Improving Pronunciation

The English alphabet contains 26 letters, but there are 44 different sounds in English.

The relationship between English spelling and English pronunciation is not very clear, because:

- Some letters have more than one sound
- Sometimes letters are not pronounced at all
- The same sound may be represented by different letters
- Sometimes syllables indicated by the spelling are not pronounced at all

International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

It is an alphabetic system of phonetic notation.

ɪ	I	ʊ	u:	Iə	eɪ	ɪ:	ʌ
e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ	əʊ	
æ	ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ	
p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g
f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ
m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j

Consonants							
/p/	/t/	/k/	/s/	/ʃ/	/tʃ/	/f/	/θ/
p <u>o</u> st	t <u>a</u> ke	k <u>ee</u> p	s <u>n</u> ow	sh <u>o</u> e	ch <u>oi</u> ce	le <u>a</u> f	th <u>i</u> n
/b/	/d/	/g/	/z/	/ʒ/	/dʒ/	/v/	/ð/
b <u>oo</u> k	d <u>o</u> ctor	g <u>o</u> al	z <u>e</u> ro	meas <u>u</u> re	j <u>u</u> mp	le <u>a</u> ve	th <u>e</u>
/h/	/m/	/n/	/ŋ/	/l/	/r/	/w/	/j/
h <u>o</u> tel	m <u>ee</u> t	n <u>i</u> ne	br <u>i</u> ng	l <u>a</u> te	r <u>e</u> d	w <u>e</u> ll	y <u>e</u> s

Vowels					
/æ/	/e/	/ɪ/	/ɒ/	/ʌ/	/ə/
pl <u>a</u> n	en <u>d</u>	bi <u>g</u>	jo <u>b</u>	su <u>m</u>	the
/ʊ/	/ɑ:/	/ɜ:/	/i:/	/ɔ:/	/u:/
goo <u>d</u>	car	her	fee	law	too

Diphthongs							
/aɪ/	/aʊ/	/əʊ/	/eɪ/	/eə/	/ɪə/	/ɔɪ/	/ʊə/
wh <u>y</u>	no <u>w</u>	go	da <u>y</u>	care	de <u>a</u> r	en <u>j</u> oy	pu <u>r</u> e