

## INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET CHART: VOWELS

Phonetic Symbol	Other Variant Versions	Pronunciation Guide
/ɑ:/	/ɑ/	f <u>ath</u> er (with relaxed mouth)
/a/		French <u>la</u> or the word <u>hot</u> in most American dialects
/ɒ/		<u>no</u> t in England (a sound between /ɑ/ and /ɔ/)
/æ/		<u>ma</u> t or <u>a</u> t
/ɛ/	/e/	b <u>e</u> t
/e/		sw <u>ea</u> r; <u>eh</u> ?
/ɛ/ (with a small tail curving on bottom)	/ey/ /eɪ / /eɪ / /e:/	<u>ha</u> y, <u>pa</u> te
/i/	/iy/ /i:/	<u>se</u> e, <u>pea</u> t
/ɔ:/		<u>la</u> w (Round lips and laugh like Sesame Street's "the Count")
/o/	/ow/ /ou/ /o:/ /əʊ /	<u>bo</u> at, <u>so</u>
/u/		<u>bo</u> ot
/u:/	/uw/ /u/	<u>fo</u> ol
/ɪ/	/i:/	<u>bi</u> t
/ɔ/		<u>bo</u> ught, or <u>la</u> w (with glide reduced)
/ʊ/	/ʊ/ /ʊ/ /w/ /u/	<u>fu</u> ll, <u>pu</u> ll, <u>bo</u> ok
/ə/	/ʌ/	<u>pu</u> tt, <u>u</u> h, <u>so</u> fa, <u>bu</u> t (Midwestern accent)

### DIPHTHONGS:

/ɔɪ/	/ɔj/	<u>bo</u> y
/aɪ/	/aj/	<u>by</u> or <u>bite</u> (with Cockney accent)
/aʊ/	/au/ /aʊ/	<u>hou</u> se, <u>bo</u> ut
/eɪ/		<u>ei</u> ght, <u>pl</u> ay (with Appalachian accent)
/ɛr/		<u>pe</u> rt, <u>sh</u> irt

### Note about Linguists' Secret Codes:

Virgules like /**this**/ refer to the *phoneme*--the sound made when saying the word.

Pointed brackets like <**this**> refer to the *grapheme*--the way the word appears written on the page.

Square brackets like [**this**] enclose either phonetic symbols or transcriptions (either phonemes or graphemes, depending on context).

### Note about Aspiration:

Some linguists distinguish aspirated sounds by inserting a superscripted **h** after a letter. Technically, the sound represented by <k> in the words <kill> and <skill> are two subtly different sounds: /k<sup>h</sup>/ and /k/. This is comparable to <pill> and <spill> (/p<sup>h</sup>/ and /p/) or <till> and <still> (/t<sup>h</sup>/ and /t/). For our purposes (in what is not a linguistics class *per se*), we will ignore this difference in aspiration.