

IPA SOUNDS AND SYMBOLS

CONSONANTS

Plosives

b	as in bird	(b ɜ : d)
k	as in cat	(k æ t)
d	as in dog	(d ɒ g)
g	as in gate	(g eɪ t)
p	as in panda	(' p æ n . d ə)
t	as in tap	(t æ p)

Fricatives

f	as in fish	(f ɪ f)
h	as in hand	(h æ n d)
s	as in sun	(s ʌ n)
ʒ	as in treasure	(' t r e ʒ . ə)
ʃ	as in shark	(ʃ a : k)
θ	as in thumb	(θ ʌ m)
ð	as in feather	(' f e ð . ə)
v	as in voice	(v ɔɪ s)
z	as in zip	(z ɪ p)

Affricates

tʃ	as in chair	(t ʃ e ə)
dʒ	as in jam	(d ʒ æ m)

Nasals

m	as in mouse	(m aʊ s)
n	as in net	(n e t)
ŋ	as in king	(k ɪ ŋ)

Liquids

l	as in leg	(l e g)
r	as in rain	(r eɪ n)

Semi-vowels

w	as in water	(' w ɔ : t ə)
j	as in yawn	(j ɔ : n)

VOWELS

Short monophthongs

æ	as in ant	(æ n t)
e	as in bed	(b e d)
ə	as in teacher	(' t i : t ʃ ə)
ɪ	as in tin	(t ɪ n)
ɒ	as in frog	(f r ɒ g)
ʊ	as in book	(b ʊ k)
ʌ	as in bus	(b ʌ s)

Long monophthongs

ɑ :	as in car	(k ɑ :)
i :	as in me	(m i :)
ɜ :	as in fern	(f ɜ : n)
u :	as in moon	(m u : n)
ɔ :	as in fork	(f ɔ : k)

: is used to indicate a long vowel (long monophthong)

Diphthongs

eɪ	as in baby	(' b eɪ . b i :)
eə	as in hair	(h eə)
ɪə	as in ear	(ɪ ə)
aɪ	as in tiger	(' t aɪ . g ə)
əʊ	as in nose	(n əʊ z)
ɔɪ	as in coin	(k ɔɪ n)
ʊə	as in lure	(l ʊə)
aʊ	as in cow	(k aʊ)

' is used to indicate the stressed syllable e.g. (' p æ n .) in (' p æ n . d ə)

. is used to indicate the break between syllables.

IPA CHART

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

HOW CAN WE USE IPA?

IPA is an international code used in dictionaries to give guidance on pronunciation.

Try these examples.

bath (b ɑ : θ , b æ θ) **n** A large basin in which one sits to wash the whole body.

◆ Four letters, three phonemes. Locate the symbols on the IPA chart above and the graphemes on the GRAPHEMECHART in this CHARTS section.

bird (b ɜ : d) **n** An animal with wings and feathers that can usually fly.

◆ Four letters, three phonemes. Locate the symbols on the IPA chart above and the graphemes on the GRAPHEMECHART in this CHARTS section.