

International Phonetic Alphabet Cheat Sheet (Nearly) Every Symbol You'll Ever Need!

Each IPA symbol (in brackets)* represents a single phoneme (sound).

Pure Vowels

Tongue vowels

[i]	keep
[i]	lovely
[ɪ]	bit
[e]	che (Italian; "closed 'E'")
[(e)]	(between [e] and [ɛ]; used in French)
[ɛ]	bed ("open 'E'")
[ə]	about (in unstressed syllable; "schwa")
[ʌ]	bump (in stressed syllable)
[ɑ]	father ("dark 'ah'")
[a]	voilà ("bright 'ah'")
[æ]	cat

Lip vowels

[u]	scoop
[ʊ]	book
[o]	Tod (German; "closed 'O'")
[ɔ]	awe ("open 'O'")
[ɒ]	pot (British)

Diphthongs

[e ¹], [ɛ:i] ²	cake
[a ¹], [a:i] ² , [a:e] ³	bright
[a ¹], [a:u] ² , [a:o] ³	hound
[o ¹]	float
[ɔ ¹], [ɔ:i] ² , [ɔ:y] ³	toy

Mixed Vowels

[ø] = [e] + [o]
[œ] = [ɛ] + [ɔ]
[y] = [i] + [u]
[ɣ] = [ɪ] + [ʊ]

Nasal Vowels (French)

[ɑ̃]	en
[ɛ̃]	main
[ɔ̃]	bon
[œ̃]	un

Glide Vowels

[w]	was
[j]	yes
[ɲ]	onion
[ɥ]	pui (French)

Lateral Consonants (Semi-Vowels)

[l]	lift
[ʎ]	gli (Italian)

Stop Plosive Consonants

[p]	pest
[b]	boring
[t]	tan
[d]	dump
[k]	kite
[g]	goose
[ʔ] or [ʀ]	(glottal stop)

Fricative Consonants

[f]	foot
[v]	vowel
[s]	soprano
[z]	zip
[ʃ]	shush
[ʒ]	Asian
[θ]	thistle
[ð]	thou
[h]	house
[ʍ]	when ("hw")
[x]	Bach (German Achlaut)
[ç]	ich (German Ichlaut)
[ɣ]	ciega (Spanish)
[β]	haba (Spanish)

Combination Consonants

[tʃ] or [tʃ̥]	church
[dʒ] or [dʒ̥]	judge

Nasal Consonants

[n]	nope
[m]	mint
[ŋ]	sing

Those Terrible Rs!

[ɜ̥]	curtsy (in stressed syllable)
[ə̥]	butter, choir (in unstressed syllable or triphthong)
[r]	run (initial position)
[ɾ]	amore (Italian; "flipped 'R'")
[r̥]	re (Italian; "trilled" or "rolled 'R'")
[R]	uvular trill (not typically used in singing)
[ʀ]	der, vor (German)
[ʁ]	aber (German)

Diacritical Marks

[ː]	lengthen preceding sound
[ˈ]	indicates primary stress
[ˌ]	indicates secondary stress
[.]	indicates syllabification

* IPA symbols can also be written between slashes (e.g., /i/).

¹ English

² Italian

³ German