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International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) reference for English

(see the following video to hear all the sounds):



<http://youtu.be/o8KppNXfx2k>

Comments / special characters:

/	The start and the end of the transcription. Example: “cat” = /kæt/
ˈ	The stressed syllable of a word. Example: “prefer” (we stress the second syllable) = /priˈfɜːr/
.	The start of a new syllable. Example: “football” (2 syllables) = /ˈfʊt.bɔːl/
r	This is not an official IPA sound. It means that we pronounce the “r” sound <u>only</u> if the next word starts with a vowel. Example: “prefer” = /priˈfɜːr/ “I prefer apples.” (we pronounce the final “r” sound) “I prefer pears.” (we do not pronounce the final “r” sound) 
l	The consonant l is pronounced as a separate syllable. Example “little” = /ˈlɪt.l/
t̬	In American English, the letter “t” sounds like a “d” Example “butter” = /ˈbʌt̬.ə/ 



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Vowels (long)

IPA examples

i: tree, green

u: shoe, food

ɑ: arm, car

ɔ: door, four

ɜ:r girl, nurse

Vowels (short)

IPA examples

ɪ sit, fish

ʊ pull, good

ʌ mug, duck

ɒ hot, stop

ə amount, cinema

e red, dead ɛ in some dictionaries

æ cat, fat

ə mother

ɜ girl



Diphthongs

IPA examples

ɪə^r ear, beer

ʊə^r pure, tourist

aɪ my, five

ɔɪ boy, choice

əʊ go, joke

eə^r there, chair ɛə in some dictionaries

aʊ now, lounge

eɪ they, say

oʊ nose





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Consonants (voiceless and voiced pairs)

Consonants (voiceless)

IPA	examples
p	a <u>pp</u> le, stop <u>p</u>
t	<u>t</u> ree, want <u>t</u>
tʃ	<u>ch</u> air, teach <u>er</u>
k	<u>c</u> at, walk <u>k</u>
f	<u>f</u> ish, if <u>f</u>
θ	<u>th</u> ink, both <u>th</u>
s	<u>s</u> top, fast <u>s</u>
ʃ	<u>sh</u> e, fi <u>sh</u>

Consonants (voiced)

IPA	examples
b	<u>b</u> ad, <u>b</u> eer
d	<u>d</u> oor, food <u>d</u>
dʒ	<u>j</u> oke, lounge <u>ge</u>
g	<u>g</u> reen, dog <u>g</u>
v	<u>v</u> ote, fi <u>v</u> e
ð	<u>th</u> ey, mo <u>th</u> er
z	<u>z</u> oo, noise <u>se</u>
ʒ	plea <u>s</u> ure, vi <u>s</u> ion



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Other consonants

IPA	examples
m	<u>m</u> an, <u>m</u> oney
n	<u>n</u> ever, te <u>n</u>
ŋ	si <u>ng</u> , dri <u>nk</u>
h	<u>h</u> ot, <u>h</u> ead
l	<u>l</u> ove, pu <u>ll</u>
r	<u>r</u> ed, t <u>r</u> ee
w	<u>w</u> ant, <u>w</u> indow
j	<u>y</u> es, <u>y</u> ellow

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