

English, with only 26 letters, has approximately 44 distinct sounds known as **phonemes**. These sounds are essential for distinguishing between different words and their meanings. To represent these sounds, we use various letters and combinations of letters called **graphemes**.

The 44 English sounds can be divided into **consonants** and **vowels**. Below is a compilation of the 44 phonemes, their corresponding International Phonetic Alphabet symbols, and examples of their usage. It's important to note that there is no definitive list of phonemes due to accents, dialects, and language evolution. As a result, you may encounter lists with more or fewer than these 44 sounds.

source: <https://www.dyslexia-reading-well.com/44-phonemes-in-english.html>

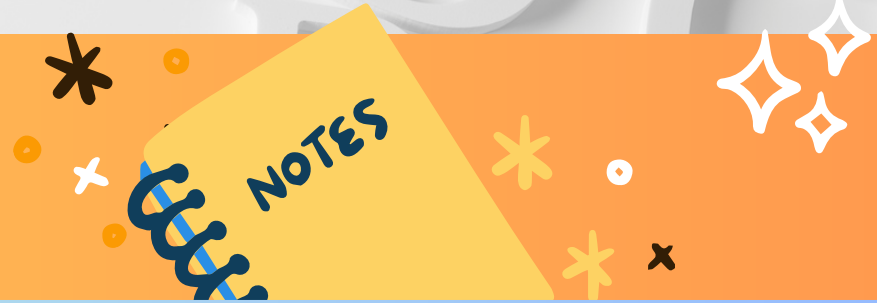


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Consonants

Page 1/5



PHONEME	IPA SYMBOL	Graphemes	Examples	Voiced?
1	b	b, bb	bug, bubble	✓
2	d	d, dd, ed	dad, add, milled	✓
3	f	f, ff, ph, gh, lf, ft	fat, cliff, phone, enough, half, often	✗
4	g	g, gg, gh, gu, gue	gun, egg, ghost, guest, prologue	✓

Consonants

Page 2/5

BROOKLYN LETTERS
SPEECH, LANGUAGE, LITERACY

PHONEME	IPA SYMBOL	Graphemes	Examples	Voiced?
5	h	h, wh	hop, who	✗
6	dʒ	j, ge, g, dge, di, gg	jam, wage, giraffe, edge, soldier, exaggerate	✓
7	k	k, c, ch, cc, lk, qu ,q(u), ck, x	kit, cat, chris, accent, folk, bouquet, queen, rack, box	✗
8	l	l, ll	live, well	✓
9	m	m, mm, mb, mn, lm	man, summer, comb, column, palm	✓
10	n	n, nn, kn, gn, pn, mn	net, funny, know, gnat, pneumonic, mnemonic	✓
11	p	p, pp	pin, dippy	✗
12	r	r, rr, wr, rh	run, carrot, wrench, rhyme	✓
13	s	s, ss, c, sc, ps, st, ce, se	sit, less, circle, scene, psycho, listen, pace, course	✗
14	t	t, tt, th, ed	tip, matter, thomas, ripped	✗

Consonants

Page 3/5



PHONEME	IPA SYMBOL	Graphemes	Examples	Voiced?
15	v	v, f, ph, ve	vine, of, stephen, five	✓
16	w	w, wh, u, o	wit, why, quick, choir	✓
17	z	z, zz, s, ss, x, ze, se	zed, buzz, his, scissors, xylophone, craze	✓
18	ʒ	s, si, z	treasure, division, azure	✓
19	tʃ	ch, tch, tu, te	chip, watch, future, righteous	✗
20	ʃ	sh, ce, s, ci, si, ch, sci, ti	sham, ocean, sure, special, pension, machine, conscience, station	✗
21	θ	th	thongs	✗
22	ð	th	leather	✓
23	ŋ	ng, n, ngue	ring, pink, tongue	✓
24	j	y, i, j	you, onion, hallelujah	✓

Vowels

Page 4/5



PHONEME	IPA SYMBOL	Graphemes	Examples
25	æ	a, ai, au	cat, plaid, laugh
26	eɪ	a, ai, eigh, aigh, ay, er, et, ei, au, a_e, ea, ey	bay, maid, weigh, straight, pay, filet, eight, gauge, mate, break, they
27	ɛ	e, ea, u, ie, ai, a, eo, ei, ae	end, bread, bury, friend, said, many, leopard, heifer, aesthetic
28	i:	e, ee, ea, y, ey, oe, ie, i, ei, eo, ay	be, bee, meat, lady, key, phoenix, grief, ski, deceive, people, quay
29	ɪ	i, e, o, u, ui, y, ie	it, england, women, busy, guild, gym, sieve
30	aɪ	i, y, igh, ie, uy, ye, ai, is, eigh, i_e	spider, sky, night, pie, guy, stye, aisle, island, height, kite
31	ɒ	a, ho, au, aw, ough	swan, honest, maul, slaw, fought
32	oʊ	o, oa, o_e, oe, ow, ough, eau, oo, ew	open, moat, bone, toe, sow, dough, beau, brooch, sew
33	ʊ	o, oo, u,ou	wolf, look, bush, would
34	ʌ	u, o, oo, ou	lug, monkey, blood, double

Vowels

Page 5/5

BROOKLYN LETTERS
SPEECH, LANGUAGE, LITERACY



PHONEME	IPA SYMBOL	Graphemes	Examples
35	u:	o, oo, ew, ue, u_e, oe, ough, ui, oew, ou	who, loon, dew, blue, flute, shoe, through, fruit, manoeuvre, group
36	ɔɪ	oi, oy, uoy	join, boy, buoy
37	aʊ	ow, ou, ough	now, shout, bough
38	ə	a, er, i, ar, our, ur	about, ladder, pencil, dollar, honour, augur
39	eə ^r	air, are, ear, ere, eir, ayer	chair, dare, pear, where, their, prayer
40	ɑ:	a	arm
41	ɜ: ^r	ir, er, ur, ear, or, our, yr	bird, term, burn, pearl, word, journey, myrtle
42	ɔ:	aw, a, or, oor, ore, oar, our, augh, ar, ough, au	paw, ball, fork, poor, fore, board, four, taught, war, bought, sauce
43	ɪə ^r	ear, eer, ere, ier	ear, steer, here, tier
44	ʊə ^r	ure, our	cure, tourist