

## Appendix 7 – English Phonemic Alphabet



### English Phonemic Alphabet

In English, letter can represent more than one sound and one sound can be represented by one letter. For example, the letter *c* can represent one sound as in the word *cat* and another sound as in the word *center*. For that reason, linguists use a system that has one symbol to represent each different sound. It is called a phonetic alphabet. This chart shows the phonetic symbols for English consonants.

How the Sounds are Made		Where the Sounds Are Made						
		Two lips	Lip and teeth	Tongue between teeth	On or near the tooth ridge	Tongue near roof of the mouth	Back of tongue against the back of the throat	Back of the throat
	Vocal Chords							
Air is stopped	no	<b>b</b> <u>b</u> ird			<b>t</b> <u>t</u> op		<b>k</b> <u>k</u> id	
	yes	<b>p</b> <u>p</u> it			<b>d</b> <u>d</u> ip		<b>g</b> <u>g</u> ap	
Air is released with some friction	no		<b>f</b> <u>f</u> un	<b>T</b> <u>t</u> hin	<b>s</b> <u>s</u> ad	<b>ʃ</b> <u>sh</u> y		<b>h</b> <u>h</u> ot
	yes		<b>v</b> <u>v</u> an	<b>D</b> <u>th</u> at	<b>z</b> <u>z</u> ip	<b>ʒ</b> <u>az</u> ure		
Air is stopped and then released	no					<b>č</b> <u>ch</u> ip		
	yes					<b>ĵ</b> <u>j</u> ar		
Air goes out the nose	yes	<b>m</b> <u>m</u> an			<b>n</b> <u>n</u> est		<b>N</b> <u>si</u> ng	
Air goes past the sides of the tongue	yes				<b>l</b> <u>l</u> id			
Tongue "slides" from one position to another	yes	<b>w</b> <u>w</u> in			<b>r</b> <u>r</u> ed	<b>y</b> <u>y</u> ell		

## English Vowels

All vowel sounds are made with the vocal chords vibrating. They become different sounds as we move our tongue up and down and forward and backward, open and close our jaw and round our lips. Try making different sounds by changing the shape of your mouth. Make the sound "uh" and then make your lips round, but keep making the "uh" sound. Does rounding your lips make it a different sound? Keep making the "uh" sound and move your tongue back and forth and up and down. Open and close your jaw too.

	Tongue in Front of Mouth		Tongue in Center of Mouth	Tongue in Back of Mouth	
Jaw closed	i <u>beet</u>	I <u>bit</u>		U <u>book</u>	u <u>moon</u>
Jaw partially open	e <u>say</u>	E <u>set</u>	ə <u>up</u>	O <u>fall</u>	O <u>so</u>
Jaw open		æ <u>can</u>		a <u>hot</u>	
	Tongue "flexed"	Tongue relaxed	Tongue relaxed	Tongue relaxed	Tongue "flexed"

Here is what your vocal tract looks like when you say some of these vowels:

