

## Examples of Phonetic Symbols Found in Standard American English

**Note:** Because English spelling does not have a one-to-one correspondence with sounds, underlining the letter in example words can be difficult. For example, we have underlined the <x> in *exceed* to indicate both [k] and [s] because the letter <x> represents a series of two sounds: [ks]. For each symbol, think carefully about how the sound occurs in the example words.

### a. Consonants

#### i. Non-Syllabic Consonants

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Example Words</i>
[p]	<u>p</u> it, tip, sp <u>i</u> t, hic <u>co</u> ugh, ap <u>pe</u> ar
[b]	<u>b</u> all, globe, am <u>bl</u> e, <u>br</u> ick, <u>bu</u> bble
[t]	<u>t</u> ag, pa <u>t</u> , <u>st</u> ick, p <u>ter</u> odactyl, <u>st</u> uffed
[d]	<u>d</u> ip, ca <u>rd</u> , <u>dr</u> op, lo <u>ve</u> d, ba <u>tt</u> ed
[k]	<u>k</u> it, <u>sc</u> oot, <u>ch</u> aracter, <u>cr</u> itique, <u>ex</u> ceed
[g]	<u>g</u> uard, ba <u>g</u> , <u>fi</u> nger, designa <u>t</u> e, Pittsb <u>urgh</u>
[ʔ]	uh-oh, ha <u>tr</u> ack, Ba <u>t</u> man, bu <u>tt</u> on, cu <u>rt</u> ain
[f]	<u>f</u> oot, la <u>ugh</u> , <u>ph</u> ilosophy, <u>co</u> ffee, ca <u>ra</u> fe
[v]	<u>v</u> est, do <u>ve</u> , gra <u>vel</u> , an <u>vil</u> , a <u>ve</u> rage
[θ]	<u>th</u> rough, wr <u>ath</u> , <u>th</u> istle, <u>eth</u> er, <u>teeth</u>
[ð]	<u>th</u> e, <u>the</u> ir, mo <u>th</u> er, <u>ei</u> ther, <u>teeth</u> e
[s]	<u>s</u> oap, ps <u>ych</u> ology, pa <u>ck</u> s, <u>de</u> sc <u>en</u> t, pe <u>ac</u> e, <u>ex</u> ceed
[z]	<u>z</u> ip, ro <u>ad</u> s, <u>ki</u> sses, <u>X</u> erox, <u>de</u> sign
[ʃ]	<u>sh</u> y, miss <u>ion</u> , na <u>ti</u> on, glaci <u>al</u> , <u>su</u> re
[ʒ]	mea <u>su</u> re, visi <u>on</u> , az <u>ur</u> e, ca <u>su</u> alty, deci <u>si</u> on
[h]	<u>wh</u> o, <u>h</u> at, rehash, <u>h</u> ole, <u>wh</u> ole
[tʃ]	<u>ch</u> oke, <u>ma</u> tch, fea <u>t</u> ure, righ <u>te</u> ous, constituent
[dʒ]	<u>ju</u> dge, <u>Ge</u> orge, <u>Jell</u> -O, regi <u>on</u> , resi <u>du</u> al
[m]	<u>m</u> oose, <u>la</u> mb, <u>sm</u> ack, <u>am</u> nesty, <u>am</u> ple
[n]	<u>n</u> ap, design <u>n</u> , <u>sn</u> ow, <u>kn</u> ow, mnemon <u>ic</u>
[ŋ]	l <u>un</u> g, thin <u>k</u> , <u>fi</u> nger, sing <u>er</u> , an <u>k</u> le
[l]	<u>l</u> eaf, feel, <u>L</u> loyd, mild, appl <u>au</u> d
[r]	<u>r</u> eef, fear, <u>H</u> arris, <u>pr</u> une, ca <u>rp</u>
[r]	bu <u>tt</u> er, <u>u</u> dder, cut <u>er</u> , <u>A</u> dam, bott <u>le</u> , re <u>ad</u> y
[w]	<u>w</u> ith, <u>sw</u> im, mow <u>ing</u> , <u>qu</u> een, <u>tw</u> ilight
[w]	<u>wh</u> ich, <u>wh</u> ere, <u>wh</u> at, <u>wh</u> ale, <u>wh</u> y
[j]	<u>y</u> ou, <u>be</u> autiful, <u>fe</u> ud, <u>u</u> se, <u>y</u> ell

#### ii. Syllabic Consonants

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Example Words</i>
[m̩]	possum, chasm, Adam, bottomless
[ŋ̩]	button, chicken, lesson, kittenish
[l̩]	little, single, simple, stabilize
[ɹ̩]	ladder, singer, burp, percent, bird

### b. Vowels

#### i. Monophthongs (Simple Vowels)

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Example Words</i>
[i]	beat, we, believe, people, money, dean
[ɪ]	bit, consist, injury, malignant, gym, business
[e]	bet, reception, says, guest, bend
[æ]	bat, laugh, anger, bang, comrade, rally, hand
[u]	boot, who, brewer, duty, through, dune
[ʊ]	put, foot, butcher, boogie-woogie, could
[ɔ]	bought, caught, wrong, stalk, core, law
[ɑ]	pot, father, sergeant, honor, hospital, bomb
[ʌ]	but, tough, another, oven, fungus
[ə]	among, Asia, eloquent, famous, harmony

#### ii. Diphthongs (Complex Vowels)

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Example Words</i>
[aɪ]	I, abide, Stein, aisle, choir, island, fine
[aʊ]	bout, brown, doubt, flower, loud
[ɔɪ]	boy, doily, rejoice, perestroika, annoy
[oʊ]	oh, boat, beau, grow, though, over
[eɪ]	bait, reign, great, they, gauge, age