

ter 14, continue on with chapter 2. Chapters 2 through 13 will contain applications and texts for both American and British English. Throughout all the chapters, American texts are treated in American Standard and the British texts are treated in Received Pronunciation and Mid-Atlantic pronunciation.

If you are a North American English speaker, just continue on in chapter 1 to learn the IPA as it applies to American English speech sounds. Chapters 2–13 will contain applications and texts for both American and British English. The American texts are treated in American Standard pronunciation and the British texts are treated in Received Pronunciation and Mid-Atlantic pronunciation.

An *Exercise Guide* with phonetic transcriptions and applications for all the exercises and drills can be found on the companion website.

IT'S DECISION TIME!!

FOR

IPA for American English

IPA for British English

Continue below

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On to the IPA . . . !!

The International Phonetic Alphabet for American English



Consonants

The following symbols are identical to the letters of our English (Roman) alphabet:

[b], [d], [f], [g], [h], [k], [l], [m], [n], [p], [s], [t], [v], [w], [z]

The symbols below are new symbols added because no corresponding symbols exist in the Roman alphabet:

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Key Words</i>
[ŋ] (ng)	in <u>si</u> ng, thi <u>n</u> k
[θ] (th)	in <u>th</u> in, <u>th</u> irst

<i>Symbol</i>		<i>Key Words</i>
[ð]	(th)	in <u>th</u> ine, <u>th</u> is
[ʍ]	(hw)	in <u>w</u> hisper, <u>w</u> hen
[j]		in <u>y</u> ou, <u>y</u> es
[ʃ]	(sh)	in <u>s</u> he, <u>s</u> ure
[tʃ]	(ch)	in <u>ch</u> oose, <u>ch</u> urch
[ʒ]		in <u>v</u> ision, 'a <u>z</u> ure*
[dʒ]		in <u>G</u> eorge, <u>j</u> oy
[ɹ]**		in <u>r</u> ed, <u>r</u> emember, every (the burred r)

Vowels

<i>Symbol</i>		<i>Key Words</i>
[ɑ]	(ah)	in <u>f</u> ather, <u>h</u> ot
[ɛ]	(eh)	in <u>w</u> ed, <u>m</u> any, <u>b</u> ury
[ɪ]	(ih)	in <u>h</u> it, <u>b</u> een, <u>b</u> usy
[iː]	(ee)	in <u>m</u> e, <u>ch</u> ief, <u>f</u> eat, <u>r</u> ec <u>e</u> ive
[i]	(ee)	in <u>p</u> retty, <u>l</u> ovely
[æ]		in <u>c</u> at, <u>m</u> arry, <u>a</u> sk, <u>ch</u> arity
[u]	(oo)	in <u>t</u> oo, <u>w</u> ound, <u>b</u> lue, <u>j</u> uice
[ju]		in <u>v</u> iew, <u>b</u> eautiful, <u>u</u> sual, <u>t</u> une
[ʊ]		in <u>b</u> ook, <u>b</u> osom, <u>c</u> ushion, <u>f</u> ull
[o]	(oh)	in <u>o</u> bey, <u>d</u> esolate, <u>m</u> elody (unstressed syllables only)
[ɔ]	(aw)	in <u>a</u> wful, <u>c</u> all, <u>d</u> aughter, <u>s</u> ought
[ɛː]†	(er)	in <u>l</u> earn, <u>b</u> urn, <u>r</u> ehearse, <u>j</u> ourney (stressed syllables only)
[əː]†	(er)	in <u>f</u> ather, <u>d</u> octor, <u>v</u> ulgar, <u>e</u> lixir (unstressed syllables only)
[ʌ]	(uh)	in <u>h</u> um, <u>b</u> lood, <u>t</u> rouble, <u>j</u> udge (stressed syllables)
[ə]	(uh)	in <u>s</u> ofa, <u>h</u> eaven, <u>n</u> ation, <u>j</u> oyous (unstressed syllables)

* See alternate pronunciation and stress pattern in RP.

** The use of rolled [R] and flipped R's [r] is found in the British RP and Mid-Atlantic dialects. They should not be used in American Standard pronunciation.

† [ɛː] and [əː] are the r-colored vowels characteristic of American Standard pronunciation, AS.

Diphthongs

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Key Words</i>
[aɪ]	in <u>n</u> ight, <u>b</u> uy, <u>s</u> ky
[eɪ]	in <u>d</u> ay, <u>b</u> reak, <u>r</u> eign
[ɔɪ]	in <u>b</u> oy, <u>v</u> oice, <u>t</u> oil
[oʊ]	in <u>n</u> o, <u>s</u> low, <u>r</u> epro <u>a</u> ch
[aʊ]	in <u>n</u> ow, <u>a</u> bout, <u>d</u> oubt
[ɛə]	in <u>a</u> ir, <u>c</u> are, <u>t</u> here
[ɪə]	in <u>e</u> ar, <u>d</u> ear, <u>h</u> ere, <u>t</u> ier
[ɔə]	in <u>p</u> our, <u>f</u> our, <u>s</u> oar, <u>o</u> 'er
[ʊə]	in <u>s</u> ure, <u>t</u> our, <u>p</u> oor
[ɑə]	in <u>a</u> re, <u>h</u> ear <u>t</u> , <u>g</u> ard <u>e</u> n

Triphthongs

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Key Words</i>
[aɪə]	in <u>f</u> ire, <u>ch</u> oir, <u>a</u> d <u>m</u> ire
[aʊə]	in <u>o</u> ur, <u>f</u> low <u>e</u> r, <u>t</u> ow <u>e</u> r

Listed below are some frequently used words that are transcribed into the International Phonetic Alphabet; American Standard pronunciations are listed.

sing [sɪŋ]	song [sɔŋ]	singer [sɪŋə]
word [wɜ:d]	would [wʊd]	wonder [wʌndə]
walk [wɔ:k]	war [wɔə]	whisper [wɪspə]
jaw [dʒɔ]	judge [dʒʌdʒ]	joyous [dʒɔɪəs]
church [tʃɜ:tʃ]	choose [tʃuz]	children [tʃɪldrən]
this [ðɪs]	thou [ðəʊ]	thine [ðaɪn]
bear [beə]	beard [bɪəd]	burden [bɜ:dən]
dawn [daʊn]	double [dʌbəl]	darkness [dɔ:k-nəs]
new [nju]	nuisance [nju:səns]	numerous [nju:m-ɪəs]

Now give these exercises a try. (Note that the phonetic characters in exercises and text throughout the book are in different fonts and some appear slightly different from each other in the two fonts.)