



DISCOVER THE INTERNATIONAL
PHONETIC ALPHABET (IPA)



*Your Free
IPA Guide*

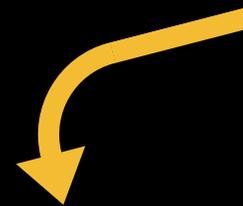
FIND OUT HOW THE IPA CAN HELP YOU
IMPROVE YOUR PRONUNCIATION



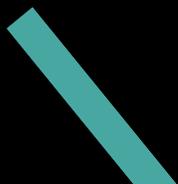


What is the IPA?

The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is a system of phonetic/phonemic transcription. In other words, it's a method of "writing the sounds of a language". You've seen IPA before - in dictionaries. **This is what it looks like:**



dictionary (noun) [countable] /'dɪkʃən(ə)ri/





Why is it useful to learn the International Phonetic Alphabet?

Learning the IPA is incredibly useful for **learning the pronunciation of a language**, especially when the the number of written letters in the language is not the same as the number of sounds in the language....





English Spelling-Sound Mapping Is Quite Irregular

There are **45 sounds** in a Standard Southern British English accent and only 26 letters in the alphabet... The same letter(s) can be pronounced in multiple ways and so when we want to know how something sounds in English, **we can't really rely on the spelling to find out how something is pronounced...**





mother /'mʌðə/

but



broth /brɒθ/



learn /lɜ:n/

but



bear /beə/



ballet /'bæleɪ/

but



pet /pet/





THAT'S why we
need the IPA!

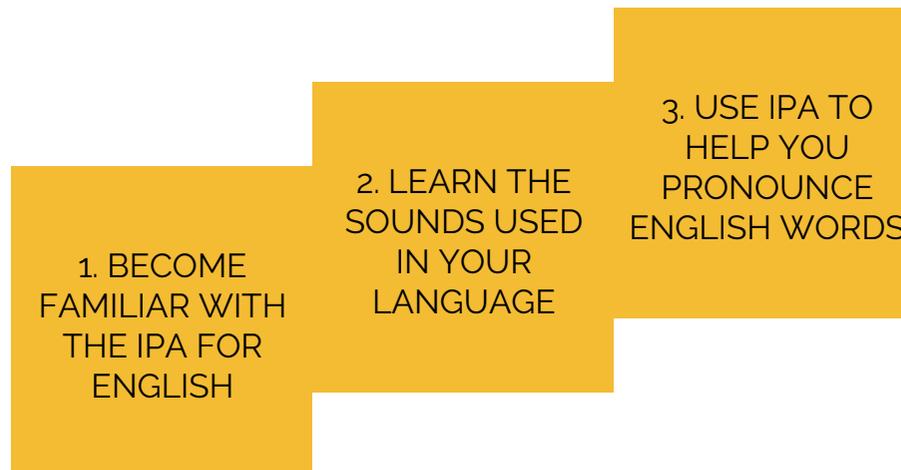




Every Sound Has A Symbol

Every sound has its **own unique IPA symbol**. There is a huge grid showing all the sounds that human languages contain and each language has its own set of sounds. 1 sound = 1 symbol, so a /m/ sound in Chinese would have the same IPA symbol as a /m/ sound in Spanish (even though the written form would be completely different).

To learn English Pronunciation, you need to:





When we write IPA phonemically, we write in between forward slashes //.

This is to show that we are talking about sounds.

When we write in normal English spelling, we write between < >.

e.g.

<happy> is pronounced /'hæpi/





The Mission

To become familiar with reading IPA symbols.

The Vision

To use the IPA to assist you in your acquisition of the speech sounds of English.





If you haven't already, go back to the page where you downloaded this PDF & download the audio files for sounds 1-45



1. æ

2. e

3. u

Monophthongs
1 Mouth Position

11. ʊ

4. ʌ



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10. ɪ

5. ɔ:

Vowel Sounds

9. i:

8. ɜ:

7. ɑ:

6. ɒ

12. eɪ

13.

eə

Diphthongs
2 Mouth Positions

19. ɪə

14. ɔɪ



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Vowel Sounds

18. əʊ

15. aʊ

17. ʊə

16. aɪ



+

the mighty Schwa

20. ə

(so important, it gets
its own page...)



32. z

21. p

22. t

23. k

31. s



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24. b

30. ð

**Consonant
Sounds**

25. d

29. θ

28. v

27. f

26. g

44. ŋ

33. ʃ

34. ʒ

35. h

43. n



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**Consonant
Sounds**

36. tʃ

42. m

37. dʒ

41. r

40. w

39. j

38. l



+

the mighty glottal
stop

45. ?

(so weird, it gets its
own page...)





You should know that...

The symbol ' before a certain syllable indicates where the stress in that word lies.

The symbol : (sometimes written :) after a vowel phoneme indicates that the vowel phoneme is long.

A crucial point...

The most important thing to remember about these symbols is that **we are looking at individual sounds**. We can break any word down into the phonemes it contains and it is very important to get into the habit of practising this. How many sounds are in the word "word"? In our model, there are 3 sounds /w ɜ: d/ in the word "word".





Test Your Knowledge Of The IPA With Your Downloadable PDF Worksheet





Any questions?

EMAIL ME TO ASK ME: [KATIE@BRITISHACCENTACADEMY.COM](mailto:katie@britishaccentacademy.com)
& I'LL GET BACK TO YOU AS SOON AS I CAN





Thank You