

U.S. English Key to the International Phonetic Alphabet

Vowels

i	fleece /flis/
ɪ	happy /'hæpi/
ɪ	kit /kɪt/
ɛ	dress /dres/, carry /'kæri/
æ	trap /træp/
ɑ	father /'fɑðər/, lot /lat/
ɔ, ɑ	hawk /hɔk/, /hɑk/
ə	cup /kəp/, alpha /'ælfə/
ʊ	foot /fʊt/
u	goose /gus/
ɔr	force /fɔrs/, north /nɔrθ/
ər	nurse /nərs/
ɪ(ə)r	here /hɪ(ə)r/
ɛ(ə)r	square /skwe(ə)r/
ʊ(ə)r	cure /kjʊ(ə)r/
eɪ	face /feɪs/
aɪ	price /praɪs/
aʊ	mouth /maʊθ/
oʊ	goat /goʊt/
ɔɪ	choice /tʃɔɪs/
æ	dauphin /doʊ'fæ/
ɑ	salon /sæ'lɑ/
+	ticket /'tɪkɪt/ – free variation between /ɪ/ and /ə/
ʊ	unique /jʊ'nik/ – free variation between /ʊ/ and /ə/

The symbol ' at the beginning of a syllable indicates that the syllable is pronounced with primary stress. The symbol ˌ indicates secondary stress. ˈ, ˌ indicates that the syllable may be pronounced with either primary or secondary stress.

Consonants

b	big /bɪg/
d	dig /dɪg/
dʒ	jet /dʒɛt/
ð	then /ðɛn/
f	fig /fɪg/
g	get /gɛt/
h	how /haʊ/
j	yes /jɛs/
k	kit /kɪt/
l	leg /lɛg/
m	main /meɪn/
n	net /nɛt/
ŋ	thing /θɪŋ/
p	pit /pɪt/
r	rain /reɪn/
s	sit /sɪt/
ʃ	ship /ʃɪp/
t	tame /teɪm/
tʃ	chip /tʃɪp/
θ	thin /θɪn/
v	vet /vɛt/
w	win /wɪn/
z	zip /zɪp/
ʒ	measure /'meɪʒər/
x	(Scottish) loch /lɑx/

The consonants l, m, and n can take on the function of a vowel in some unstressed syllables. A diacritic may mark syllabicity, as ɫ, ɱ and ɳ, as e.g. *meddle* /'mɛdl/, *meddling* /'mɛdɫɪŋ/.