

# Pronunciation Symbols

For more information see *Guide to Pronunciation*.

**e**            **ba**nana**a**, co**ll**ide, a**bu**t

**'e**, **,e**      hu**mdru**m, a**bu**t

**e**            immediately preceding \l\, \n\, \m\, \n\, as in battle**e**, mitten**e**n, eaten**e**,  
and sometimes open \oÅp-<sup>e</sup>m\, lock **and** key \-<sup>e</sup>n-\;  
immediately following \l\, \m\, \r\, as often in French  
table**e**, pris**me**, titre**e**

**er**            fu**rr**ther, me**rr**ger, bi**rr**d

**'er-**, **'e-r**    as in two different pronunciations  
of hur**rr**y, \'her-eÅ, 'he-reÅ\

a mat, map, mad, gag, snap, patch

aÅ day, fade, date, aorta, drape, cape

aÈ bother, cot, and, with most American speakers, father, cart

aÇ father as pronounced by speakers who do not rhyme it with *bother*;  
French *patte*

auÇ now, loud, out

b baby, rib

ch chin, nature \naÅ-cher\ (actually this sound is \ t \ + \ sh \ )

d did, adder

e bet, bed, peck

'eÅ, ,eÅ beat, nosebleed, evenly, easy

eÅ	easy, mealy
f	fifty, cuff
g	go, big, gift
h	hat, ahead
hw	whale as pronounced by those who do not have the same pronunciation for both <i>whale</i> and <i>wail</i>
i	tip, banish, active
õÅ	site, side, buy, tripe (actually, this sound is \ aÈ \ + \ i \, or \ aÇ \ + \ i \ )
j	job, gem, edge, join, judge (actually, this sound is \ d \ + \ zh \ )
k	kin, cook, ache

k\_ German **ich**, **Buch**; one pronunciation of **loch**

l **l**ily, pool

m **m**urmur, di**m**, ny**m**ph

n **n**o, ow**n**

n indicates that a preceding vowel or diphthong is pronounced with the nasal passages open, as in French *un bon vin blanc* \ú<sup>n</sup>-bo<sup>Å</sup><sup>n</sup>-va<sup>n</sup>-bla<sup>È</sup><sup>n</sup>\

n **sing** \'sin\, **singer** \'sin-er\, **finger** \'fin-er\, **ink** \'ink\

o<sup>Å</sup> **b**one, **k**now, **b**eau

oÇ **saw**, **a**ll, **g**naw, **c**aught

ú French **boeuf**, German **HoÈ**lle

úÅ	French <b>eu</b> , German Ho <b>ë</b> hle
oÇi	<b>co</b> in, destr <b>oy</b>
p	<b>pe</b> pper, li <b>p</b>
r	red, car, <b>ra</b> rity
S	<b>sou</b> rce, le <b>ss</b>
sh	as in <b>sh</b> y, mi <b>ss</b> ion, ma <b>ch</b> ine, spe <b>ci</b> al (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a hyphen between, two sounds as in <i>grasshopper</i> \'gras-,haÈp-er\
t	<b>tie</b> , <b>att</b> ack, la <b>te</b> , la <b>ter</b> , la <b>tt</b> er
th	as in <b>th</b> in, e <b>th</b> er (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a hyphen between, two sounds as in <i>knighthood</i> \'nõÅt-,huÇd\
_t_h	<b>th</b> en, <b>ei</b> ther, <b>th</b> is (actually, this is a single sound, not two)

uÈ rule, **y**outh, union \'yuÈn-yen\, few \'fyuÈ\

uÇ pull, w**oo**d, **bo**ok, curable \'kyuÇr-e-bel\, fury \'fyuÇ(e)r-eÅ\

u German fuÈllen, huÈbsch

uÅ French **ue**, German fuÈhlen

V **v**ivid, **g**ive

W **w**e, **a**way; in some words having final \',(,)oÅ\, \',(,)yuÈ\, or \',(,)uÈ\  
a variant \e-w\ occurs before vowels, as in \'faÈl-e-win\  
covered by the variant \e(-w)\ or \ye(-w)\ at the entry word.

y **y**ard, **y**oung, cue \'kyuÈ\, mute \'myuÈt\, union \'yuÈn-yen\

y indicates that during the articulation of the sound represented by  
the preceding character the front of the tongue has substantially

the position it has for the articulation of the first sound of  
*yard*, as in the French *digne* \deŋ<sup>y</sup>\

**Z**      **zone, raise**

**zh**      as in **vision**, azure \'azh-er\ (actually, this is a single sound, not two);  
with a hyphen between, two sounds as in *hogshead* \'hoʒgz-,hed,  
'haɛgz-\

**\**      slant line used in pairs to mark the beginning  
and end of a transcription: \pen\

**'**      mark preceding a syllable with primary (strongest) stress:  
\pen-men-,ship\

**,**      mark preceding a syllable with secondary (medium) stress:  
\pen-men-,ship\

**-**      mark of syllable division

( )

indicate that what is symbolized between is present in some utterances but not in others: *factory* \fak-t(e)reÅ\

÷

indicates that many regard as unacceptable the pronunciation variant immediately following: *cupola* \kyuÈ-pe-le, ÷,loÅ\