



Phoneme Pronunciation Guide

This is a quick guide to pronouncing the 44 different sounds in the English language, plus the double letter sounds.

Remember to try to say the sound in the shortest possible way, without adding an 'uh' at the end. E.g. 'mmm' not 'muh'.

These sounds may differ slightly with regional accents.

| Sound | Example |
|-----------|---|
| s | 'sss' as in sit |
| a | 'a' as in apple |
| t | 't' as in 'tip' (short sound) |
| p | 'p' as in 'pet' (soft gentle blowing sound) |
| i | 'l' as in 'ink' |
| n | 'nnn' as in 'neck' |
| m | 'mmm' as in 'man' |
| d | 'd' as in 'dog' (short sound) |
| g | 'g' as in 'goat' (short throaty sound) |
| o | 'o' as in 'off' |
| c | 'c' as in 'cat' (short sound, no longer called curly cuh) |
| k | 'k' as in 'kick' (short sound/same sound as 'c') |
| ck | 'ck' as in 'duck' (short sound/same sound as 'c' and 'k') |
| e | 'e' as in 'egg' |
| u | 'u' as in 'umbrella' |
| r | 'rrr' as in 'rug' (growling sound) |
| h | 'h' as in 'hot' (short, breathy sound) |
| b | 'b' as in 'bee' |
| f | 'fff' as in 'fox' (soft sound) |
| ff | 'fff' as in 'puff' (same sound as 'f') |
| l | 'ull' as in 'lemon' |
| ll | 'ull' as in 'pull' (same sound as 'l') |
| ss | 'sss' as in 'hiss' (same sound as 's') |
| j | 'j' as in 'jam' (short sound) |
| v | 'vvv' as in van |
| w | 'w' as in 'wish' (quiet, whispery sound) |
| x | 'x' as in 'box' |



| | |
|------------|---|
| y | 'y' as in 'yellow' |
| z | 'zzz' as in 'zip' |
| zz | 'zzz' as in 'buzz' |
| qu | 'kwuh' as in queen (important to know that q is always paired with a u) |
| ch | 'ch' as in 'chips' |
| sh | 'sh' as in 'shed' |
| th | 'thhh' as in 'teeth' (though can be a shorter sound as in 'the') |
| ng | 'nnng' as in 'ring' |
| ai | 'ay' as in 'train' |
| ee | 'ee' as in 'see' |
| igh | 'eye' as in 'light' |
| oa | 'oh' as in 'boat' |
| oo | 'ooo' as in 'food' (or shorter sound 'u' as in 'book') |
| ar | 'ah' as in 'park' |
| or | 'or' as in 'fork' |
| ur | 'er' as in 'burn' |
| ow | 'ow' as in 'cow' |
| oi | 'oy' as in 'coin' |
| ear | 'ear' as in 'near' |
| air | 'air' as in 'stairs' |