

The ARPAbet Phoneme Set

39 sounds that spell out how 134,000+ North American English words are pronounced.

15 vowels

24 consonants

Vowels

MONOPHTHONGS · SINGLE STEADY SOUND

AA odd AA D	AE at AE T	AH hut HH AH T	AO ought AO T	EH Ed EH D
ER hurt HH ER T	IH it IH T	IY eat IY T	UH hood HH UH D	UW two T UW

DIPHTHONGS · GLIDE BETWEEN TWO SOUNDS

AW cow K AW	AY hide HH AY D	EY ate EY T	OW oat OW T	OY toy T OY
--------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Stress markers

Every vowel carries a digit for lexical stress.

AH0 No stress	AH1 Primary stress	AH2 Secondary stress
-------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------

Consonants

STOPS · AIR BLOCKED, THEN RELEASED

P pee P IY	B be B IY	T tea T IY	D dee D IY	K key K IY	G green G R IY N
-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------

FRICATIVES · AIR HISSES THROUGH A NARROW GAP

F fee F IY	V vee V IY	TH theta TH EY T AH	DH thee DH IY	S sea S IY	Z zee Z IY	SH she SH IY
-------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------

ZH seizure S IY ZH ER	HH he HH IY
------------------------------------	--------------------------

AFFRICATES

CH cheese CH IY Z

JH gee JH IY

NASALS

M me M IY

N knee N IY

NG ping P IH NG

LIQUIDS

L lee L IY

R read R IY D

SEMIVOWELS

W we W IY

Y yield Y IY L D
