

Vowels

5A

Minimal Word Pairs

Record yourself and listen to yourself speaking the following word pairs.

Minimal Pairs - Vowels
sounds: /əʊ/, /ɔ:/, /æ/ and /ʌ/

boat	bought	bat	but	tone	tore	tan	ton
coat	caught	cat	cut	phone	fawn	fan	fun
mow	more	mat	mut	wrote	rod	rat	rut

Record yourself and listen to yourself speaking the following word pairs.

Minimal Pairs - Vowels
sounds: /e/, /ɪ/ and /i:/

bed	bid	bead	dead	did	deed
fell	fill	feel	bet	bit	beat
peck	pick	peak	tell	till	teal
etch	itch	each			

Record yourself and listen to yourself speaking the following word pairs.

Minimal Pairs - Vowels
sounds: /e/ and /eɪ/

bet	bait	well	wait
met	mate	sell	sale
tell	tale	led	laid

NOTE: These are common, but there are exceptions

Short Vowel Sounds

1. A vowel followed by a consonant at the end of a syllable has a short sound.
CVC (consonant – vowel – consonant) sit, cat, dog, drop
2. A vowel followed by two consonants at the end of a syllable has a short sound.
CVCC (consonant – vowel - consonant – consonant) bill, call, doll, west

Long Vowel Sounds

3. When an “E” at the end of a syllable is silent, the vowel before will be a long vowel. .
CVCe (consonant – vowel – consonant - “e”) white, bite, name, more
4. When two vowels are next to each other in a syllable, the second vowel is silent and the first vowel is long. “When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking.”
CVVC (consonant – vowel – vowel - consonant) meat, meet, train, coal, air, coat
5. (Exception for Rule #4) Diphthongs are when multiple vowels join to make a new sound (ai, ay, oi, ea, ew, ei, ie, oy, ou, ow, au, aw, ue, ui, oo)
6. When a syllable ends with a vowel sound, it is normally long. me, no, be-lieve, o-pen
7. When an “I” is before a “GH” (igh), the sound is a long “I”. right, light, high, tonight
8. When a “Y” ends a one-syllable word, the “Y” is long. my, fly, try
9. When a “Y” ends a multi-syllable word with the stress on the “Y”, the “Y” has a long “I” sound. [aɪ] verify, modify, reply
10. When a “Y” ends a multi-syllable word with the stress NOT on the “Y”, the “Y” has a long “E” sound. [i :] baby, funny, ugly, very
11. When a “Y” follows an “A” or “E”, then the “Y” is normally silent and makes the “A” long [eɪ] or “E” long [i :]. today, player, way, money, key,
12. When an “EI” is followed by a silent “GH”, “EI” is a long “A” sound [eɪ]. Weigh, eight
13. Normally, “UE”, “UI”, “EW” (sometimes “OO”) have the same long “U” sound [u :]. blue, true, bruise, juice, flew, new, food, noon, pool
14. “AY” has a long “A” sound [eɪ]. days, may, lay, way

5C

What is the most common sound?

- a. /æ/. (cat, ...bat) b. /ɔ:/ (caught, bought) c. /ə / (cut, but)

5D

Syllabic Consonants

Three consonant sounds (L, N, R) can add a schwa vowel sound to form a **syllable**. These are called syllabic consonants. Syllabic consonants add a schwa to assist in difficult sound combinations.

realtor [rea-(uh) l-tor] rhythm [rhyth-(uh) m] child [chi-(uh) ld]

**Practice saying these word pairs.
These words should have a clear
distinct pronunciation.**

- word world
- coat cold
- bad bald
- hole hold
- wide wild
- goat god gold
- boat bold

Example:

Table A using phone number, 5789635412, you would say “flute (5) -foot (7) -fault (8)- fest (9) -fate (6)-fist (3) -flute (5) -front (4)-feet (1) -flight (2)”

Table B using phone number, 5789635412, you would say “peach (5)- pinch (7) - punch (8) - poach (9) - porch (6) - pouch (3) - peach (5) - pouch (4) - perch (1) - pitch (2)”

Table A

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
fact	feet	flight	fist	front	flute	fate	foot	fault	fest

Table B

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
patch	perch	pitch	pouch	pouch	peach	porch	pinch	punch	poach

Table C

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
bless	brass	boss	bus	bliss	blues	base	bruise	blouse	bose

Table D

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
wet	wait	wort	what	write	wilt	wheat	won't	wrath	with

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www.speakenglishbusiness.com

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