

Perfect Pronunciation

Phonology & Listening Exercises

1

Michael Dyer

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Phonetics Guide

Phonetics is the study of the sounds of human speech. Understanding phonetics helps learners improve their pronunciation by recognizing and producing the correct sounds in English. Below is a guide to the phonetic symbols used in this book, along with examples to illustrate each sound.

Consonants

Symbol	Sound	Example Words
b	voiced bilabial stop	bat, bed, big
d	voiced alveolar stop	dog, did, dot
f	voiceless labiodental fricative	fan, fit, fun
g	voiced velar stop	go, get, gun
h	voiceless glottal fricative	hat, hit, hut
k	voiceless velar stop	kit, cut, cap
l	voiced alveolar lateral approximant	lap, lot, lip
m	voiced bilabial nasal	man, met, map
n	voiced alveolar nasal	not, net, nap
p	voiceless bilabial stop	pat, pen, pot
r	voiced alveolar approximant	rat, run, rip
s	voiceless alveolar fricative	sit, sip, sun
ʃ	voiceless postalveolar fricative	ship, she, fish
t	voiceless alveolar stop	tap, tip, top
v	voiced labiodental fricative	van, vet, vat
w	voiced labio-velar approximant	wet, win, wood
z	voiced alveolar fricative	zip, zap, zoo
ʒ	voiced postalveolar fricative	measure, vision
ŋ	voiced velar nasal	sing, song, ring

Vowels

Symbol	Sound	Example Words
æ	near-open front unrounded vowel	cat, bat, pan
e	close-mid front unrounded vowel	bet, set, pen
ɪ	near-close near-front unrounded vowel	bit, sit, pin
i:	close front unrounded vowel	bead, seed, feel
ɒ	open back rounded vowel	cot, pot, lot
ʌ	open-mid back unrounded vowel	cup, but, sun
ʊ	near-close near-back rounded vowel	put, foot, book
u:	close back rounded vowel	boot, too, loop
ɔ:	open-mid back rounded vowel	law, saw, talk
ɑ:	open back unrounded vowel	car, father, bar
ɛ	open-mid front unrounded vowel	bet, set, get
ə	mid-central vowel (schwa)	about, sofa, ago

Pronunciation Guide

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. bat (bæt), bet (bɛt), bit (bɪt) | 9. tan (tæn), ten (tɛn), tin (tɪn) |
| 2. pat (pæt), pet (pɛt), pit (pɪt) | 10. lap (læp), lop (lɒp), lip (lɪp) |
| 3. bad (bæd), bed (bɛd), bid (bɪd) | 11. ram (ræm), rim (rɪm), rum (rʌm) |
| 4. cat (kæt), cot (kɒt), cut (kʌt) | 12. tap (tæp), top (tɒp), tip (tɪp) |
| 5. pan (pæn), pen (pɛn), pin (pɪn) | 13. hat (hæt), hot (hɒt), hut (hʌt) |
| 6. cap (kæp), cop (kɒp), cup (kʌp) | 14. sat (sæt), set (sɛt), sit (sɪt) |
| 7. back (bæk), beck (bɛk), buck (bʌk) | 15. rat (ræt), rot (rɒt), rut (rʌt) |
| 8. sack (sæk), sock (sɒk), suck (sʌk) | 16. rub (rʌb), rib (rɪb), rob (rɒb) |

A. Pronounce

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. bet, bit, bat | 3. bad, bed, bid | 5. pen, pin, pan | 7. beck, buck, back |
| 2. pet, pit, pat | 4. cot, cut, cat | 6. cop, cap, cup | 8. sock, suck, sack |

B. Read

- I bet the bat will fly to the bit of cheese.
- The pet ran to the pit where his owner would pat him.
- The bad man placed a bid and his bed was made.

C. Listen and Number

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. tan (), tin (), ten () | 5. hut (), hot (), hat () |
| 2. lip (), lop (), lap () | 6. sit (), set (), sat () |
| 3. ram (), rum (), rim () | 7. rut (), rot (), rat () |
| 4. tip (), top (), tap () | 8. rob (), rib (), rub () |

D. Listen and Write

- _____
- _____
- _____

Student B Answers

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. bet (1), bit (2), bat (3) | 5. pin (2), pan (3), pen (1) |
| 2. pit (2), pat (3), pet (1) | 6. cup (3), cap (2), cop (1) |
| 3. bid (3), bad (1), bed (2) | 7. buck (2), back (3), beck (1) |
| 4. cut (2), cat (3), cot (1) | 8. sock (1), sack (3), suck (2) |

Pronunciation Guide

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. bat (bæt), bet (bɛt), bit (bɪt) | 9. tan (tæn), ten (tɛn), tin (tɪn) |
| 2. pat (pæt), pet (pɛt), pit (pɪt) | 10. lap (læp), lop (lɒp), lip (lɪp) |
| 3. bad (bæd), bed (bɛd), bid (bɪd) | 11. ram (ræm), rim (rɪm), rum (rʌm) |
| 4. cat (kæt), cot (kɒt), cut (kʌt) | 12. tap (tæp), top (tɒp), tip (tɪp) |
| 5. pan (pæn), pen (pɛn), pin (pɪn) | 13. hat (hæt), hot (hɒt), hut (hʌt) |
| 6. cap (kæp), cop (kɒp), cup (kʌp) | 14. sat (sæt), set (sɛt), sit (sɪt) |
| 7. back (bæk), beck (bɛk), buck (bʌk) | 15. rat (ræt), rot (rɒt), rut (rʌt) |
| 8. sack (sæk), sock (sɒk), suck (sʌk) | 16. rub (rʌb), rib (rɪb), rob (rɒb) |

A. Pronounce

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. tin, tan, ten | 3. rum, rim, ram | 5. hot, hat, hut | 7. rat, rut, rot |
| 2. lip, lop, lap | 4. tip, tap, top | 6. sit, set, sat | 8. rub, rob, rib |

B. Read

- The boy with a tan has only ten cents to buy a tin of food.
- He gave the tip of the tap a twist to fill the can to the top.
- The rat found food in the rot and ran into a rut.

C. Listen and Number

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. bet (), bit (), bat () | 5. pin (), pan (), pen () |
| 2. pit (), pat (), pet () | 6. cup (), cap (), cop () |
| 3. bid (), bad (), bed () | 7. buck (), back (), beck () |
| 4. cut (), cat (), cot () | 8. sock (), sack (), suck () |

D. Listen and Write

- _____
- _____
- _____

Student A Answers

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. tan (2), tin (1), ten (3) | 5. hut (3), hot (1), hat (2) |
| 2. lip (1), lop (2), lap (3) | 6. sit (1), set (2), sat (3) |
| 3. ram (3), rum (1), rim (2) | 7. rut (2), rot (3), rat (1) |
| 4. tip (1), top (3), tap (2) | 8. rob (2), rib (3), rub (1) |



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