

Perfect Pronunciation

Phonology & Listening Exercises

2

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. bite (baɪt), bait (beɪt), boat (bəʊt) | 9. gout (gaʊt), goat (goʊt), got (ɡɒt) |
| 2. coil (kɔɪl), curl (kɜːrl), carol (ˈkærəl) | 10. choir (kwaɪər), chair (tʃɛər), cheer (tʃɪər) |
| 3. faint (feɪnt), font (fɒnt), found (faʊnd) | 11. join (dʒɔɪn), jolt (dʒoʊlt), jest (dʒɛst) |
| 4. tide (taɪd), toad (toʊd), told (toʊld) | 12. buyer (ˈbaɪər), borer (ˈbɔːrər), barter (ˈbɑːrtər) |
| 5. boil (bɔɪl), bail (beɪl), bold (bəʊld) | 13. coy (kɔɪ), cut (kʌt), coat (kəʊt) |
| 6. foist (fɔɪst), fight (faɪt), fit (fɪt) | 14. sour (saʊər), sore (sɔːr), sear (sɪər) |
| 7. noise (nɔɪz), nose (noʊz), night (naɪt) | 15. loud (laʊd), load (ləʊd), lead (liːd) |
| 8. layer (ˈleɪər), liar (ˈlaɪər), lower (ˈləʊər) | 16. ploy (plɔɪ), ply (plaɪ), plot (plɒt) |

A. Pronounce

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. bait, boat, bite | 3. font, faint, found | 5. bold, boil, bail | 7. nose, night, noise |
| 2. carol, curl, coil | 4. tide, toad, told | 6. fight, fit, foist | 8. liar, lower, layer |

B. Read

- He took a bite of the bait and then saw the boat.
- The curl of the ribbon looked like a coil on the carol.
- The font was faint, and he found it hard to read.

C. Listen and Number

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. gout (), goat (), got () | 5. coy (), coat (), cut () |
| 2. choir (), cheer (), chair () | 6. sore (), sour (), sear () |
| 3. join (), jest (), jolt () | 7. loud (), load (), lead () |
| 4. buyer (), barter (), borer () | 8. ply (), plot (), ploy () |

D. Listen and Write

- _____
- _____
- _____

Student B Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. bait (1), boat (2), bite (3) | 5. boil (2), bail (3), bold (1) |
| 2. curl (2), coil (3), carol (1) | 6. fit (2), fight (1), foist (3) |
| 3. font (1), found (3), faint (2) | 7. noise (3), nose (1), night (2) |
| 4. told (3), tide (1), toad (2) | 8. liar (1), lower (2), layer (3) |

Pronunciation Guide

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. bite (baɪt), bait (beɪt), boat (bəʊt) | 9. gout (gaʊt), goat (ɡəʊt), got (ɡɒt) |
| 2. coil (kɔɪl), curl (kɜːrl), carol (ˈkærəl) | 10. choir (kwaɪər), chair (tʃeər), cheer (tʃɪər) |
| 3. faint (feɪnt), font (fɒnt), found (faʊnd) | 11. join (dʒɔɪn), jolt (dʒoʊlt), jest (dʒest) |
| 4. tide (taɪd), toad (toʊd), told (toʊld) | 12. buyer (ˈbaɪər), borer (ˈbɔːrər), barter (ˈbɑːrtər) |
| 5. boil (bɔɪl), bail (beɪl), bold (bəʊld) | 13. coy (kɔɪ), cut (kʌt), coat (kəʊt) |
| 6. foist (fɔɪst), fight (faɪt), fit (fɪt) | 14. sour (saʊər), sore (sɔːr), sear (sɪər) |
| 7. noise (nɔɪz), nose (noʊz), night (naɪt) | 15. loud (laʊd), load (ləʊd), lead (liːd) |
| 8. layer (ˈleɪər), liar (ˈlaɪər), lower (ˈləʊər) | 16. ploy (plɔɪ), ply (plaɪ), plot (plɒt) |

A. Pronounce

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. gout, got, goat | 3. jolt, jest, join | 5. cut, coat, coy | 7. load, lead, loud |
| 2. cheer, chair, choir | 4. barter, borer, buyer | 6. sore, sear, sour | 8. plot, ply, play |

B. Read

- The gout was painful, so he avoided the goat and walked on the got path.
- The choir sang, and the cheer rose as she took her chair.
- He joined the jest and jolted with laughter.

C. Listen and Number

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. bait (), boat (), bite () | 5. boil (), bail (), bold () |
| 2. curl (), coil (), carol () | 6. fit (), fight (), foist () |
| 3. font (), found (), faint () | 7. noise (), nose (), night () |
| 4. told (), tide (), toad () | 8. liar (), lower (), layer () |

D. Listen and Write

- _____
- _____
- _____

Student A Answers

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. gout (1), goat (3), got (2) | 5. coy (3), coat (2), cut (1) |
| 2. choir (3), cheer (1), chair (2) | 6. sore (1), sour (3), sear (2) |
| 3. join (3), jest (2), jolt (1) | 7. loud (3), load (1), lead (2) |
| 4. buyer (3), barter (1), borer (2) | 8. ply (2), plot (1), play (3) |



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