

Detailed chart of pronunciation

Vowels and diphthongs in accented syllables

Symbol		Examples	Pronunciation
<i>ā</i>	as in	name, aid, rein, tare, wear, hair, heir, fairy	<i>nām, ād, rān, tār, wār, hār; ār, fār'i</i>
<i>ä</i>	"	grass, path, palm, harm, heart	<i>gräs, päth, pä'm, härm, härt</i>
<i>a</i>	"	sat, bad, have, marry	<i>sat, bad, hav, mar'i</i>
<i>ē</i>	"	lean, keel, dene, chief, seize, gear, sheer, here, bier, query	<i>lēn, kēl, dēn, chēf, sēz, gēr, shēr, hēr, bēr, kwēr'i</i>
<i>e</i>	"	red, thread, said, bury	<i>red, thred, sed, ber'i</i>
<i>ī</i>	"	side, shy, dye, height, hire, byre, fiery	<i>sīd, shī, dī, hīt, hīr, bīr; fīr'i</i>
<i>i</i>	"	pin, busy, hymn	<i>pin, biz'i, him</i>
<i>ō</i>	"	bone, road, foe, low, dough, more, soar, floor, port, Tory (For alternative pronunciation of port, more, etc, see <i>ö</i>)	<i>bōn, rōd, fō, lō, dō mōr, sōr, flōr, pōrt, tōr'i</i>
<i>ö</i>	"	haul, lawn, fall, bought, swarm, more, soar, floor, port, Tory (For alternative pronunciation of port, more, etc, see <i>ō</i>)	<i>hōl, lōn, fōl, bōt, swōrm, mōr, sōr, flōr, pōrt, tōr'i</i>
<i>o</i>	"	got, shot, shone	<i>got, shot, shon</i>
<i>oo</i>	"	fool, sou, boor, tour	<i>fool, soo, boor, toor</i>
<i>ū</i>	"	good, full, would	<i>gūd, fūl, wūd</i>
<i>ū</i>	"	tune, due, newt, view, endure, fury	<i>tūn, dū, nūt, vū, in-dūr', fūr'i</i>
<i>u</i>	"	bud, run, love	<i>bud, run, luv</i>
<i>û</i>	"	heard, bird, word, absurd	<i>hûrd, bûrd, wûrd, ab-sûrd'</i>
<i>ow</i>	"	mount, frown, sour	<i>mownt, frown, sowr</i>
<i>oi</i>	"	toy, buoy, soil	<i>toi, boi, soil</i>

Stress

In words of more than one syllable, the syllable with the main accent is shown by a stress mark ' following that syllable, both in the respellings (eg *äfter, bi-gin'*) and in entries in bold type (eg **af'ters, beginn'er**).

Note the difference in pronunciation, as shown by the position of the stress mark, between **bles'sed'** (*blest*) and **bles's'ed** (*bles'id*), **refin'ed** (*re-fīnd'*) and **refin'edly** (*ri-fīn'id-li*).

Vowels in unaccented syllables

Neutral vowels in unaccented syllables are usually shown by ə (schwa)

eg *el'ə-mənt, in'fənt, ran'dəm, pre'shəs* (precious), *nā'chər* (nature).

In certain cases, they are more exactly represented by *i*

eg *ēvil, bi-höld', bles'id, man'ij, di-ment'*.

Vowels followed by r

In certain accents, for example in Scots, Irish, General American, **r** is pronounced wherever it occurs in the spelling and this is the form adopted in the dictionary.

In certain other accents, for example Received Pronunciation or what is sometimes called the BBC accent, it is pronounced only when it occurs before a vowel. Elsewhere the following rules apply:

<i>ār</i>	is pronounced as	<i>eə</i>	<i>ör</i>	is pronounced as	<i>ō</i> or <i>ōə</i>
<i>är</i>	" " "	<i>ä</i>	<i>oor</i>	" " "	<i>ūə</i>
<i>ēr</i>	" " "	<i>iə</i>	<i>ūr</i>	" " "	<i>ūə</i>
<i>er</i>	" " "	<i>eə</i>	<i>ûr</i>	" " "	<i>û</i>
<i>īr</i>	" " "	<i>īə</i>	<i>owr</i>	" " "	<i>owə</i>

Consonants

Symbol		Examples	Pronunciation
<i>b</i>	as in	hob, rabbit	<i>hob, rab'it</i>
<i>ch</i>	"	church, much, match	<i>chúrch, much, mach</i>
<i>d</i>	"	ado, dew	<i>ə-doo', dū</i>
<i>dh</i>	"	then, father	<i>dhen, fū dhər</i>
<i>f</i>	"	faint, phase, rough	<i>fānt, fāz, ruf</i>
<i>g</i>	"	gold, guard, ghastly	<i>gōld, gārd, gāst'li</i>
<i>gz</i>	"	exact	<i>igz-akt'</i>
<i>h</i>	"	happy, home	<i>hap'i, hōm</i>
<i>hh</i>	"	loch, Taoiseach	<i>loh, tē shohh</i>
<i>hl</i>	"	(Welsh) pennill	<i>pen'ihl</i>
(<i>h</i>) <i>w</i>	"	whale, which	(<i>h</i>)wāl, (<i>h</i>)wich
<i>j</i>	"	jack, gentle, ledge, region	<i>jak, jen'tl, lej, rē'jən</i>
<i>k</i>	"	keep, cat, chorus	<i>kēp, kat, kōr'əs (kōr')</i>
<i>ks</i>	"	lax, vex	<i>laks, veks</i>
<i>kw</i>	"	quite, coiffeur	<i>kwīt, kwā-fēr</i>
<i>l</i>	"	lamp, collar	<i>lamp, kol'ər</i>
<i>m</i>	"	meat, palm, stammer	<i>mēt, pām, stam'ər</i>
<i>n</i>	"	net, gnome, knee, dinner	<i>net, nōm, nē, dīn'ər</i>
<i>ng</i>	"	fling, longing	<i>fling, long'ing</i>
<i>ngg</i>	"	single, longer, languor	<i>sing'gl, long'gər, lang'gər</i>
<i>ngk</i>	"	monkey, precinct	<i>mungk'i, prē'singkt</i>
<i>p</i>	"	peat, apple	<i>pēt, ap'l</i>
<i>r</i>	"	rest, wreck, arrive	<i>rest, rek, ə-rīv'</i>
<i>s</i>	"	sad, city, circuit, scene, mass, psalm	<i>sad, sit'i, sūr'kit, sēn, mas, sām</i>
<i>sh</i>	"	shine, machine, sure, militia, acacia	<i>shīn, mə-shēn', shoor, mi-lish'ə, ə-kāsh(y)ə</i>
<i>t</i>	"	tape, nettle, thyme	<i>tāp, net'l, tīm</i>
<i>th</i>	"	thin, three	<i>thin, thrē</i>
<i>v</i>	"	valid, river	<i>val'id, riv'ər</i>
<i>w</i>	"	was, one, twig	<i>woz, wun, twig</i>
<i>y</i>	"	young, bastion	<i>yung, bast'yən</i>
<i>z</i>	"	zoo, was, roads	<i>zoo, woz, rōdz</i>
<i>zh</i>	"	azure, measure, congé, lesion	<i>azh'ər (or ā'zhūr), mezh'ər, kō-zhā, lē'zhən</i>

Additional sounds in foreign and dialect words

Symbol		Examples	Pronunciation
<i>ø</i>	as in	Fr deux, feu, peu	<i>dø, fø, pø</i>
<i>æ</i>	"	Fr fleur, leur, cœur	<i>flær, lær, kær</i>
<i>ü</i>	"	(1) Fr sur, lumineaire (2) Ger über, Führer (3) Scots bluid, buik	<i>sür, lü-mē-ner ü bər, fū'rər blüid, бүik</i>

Nasalized vowels

<i>ã</i>	as in	Fr sang, temps, dent	<i>sã, tã, dã</i>
<i>ẽ</i>	"	Fr faim, vin, plein	<i>fẽ, vẽ, plẽ</i>
<i>õ</i>	"	Fr tomber, long, sonde	<i>tõ-ba, lõ, sõd</i>
<i>ẽ</i>	"	Fr lundi, humble, un	<i>lẽ-dẽ, ẽbl', ẽ</i>
<i>ã</i>	"	Port são	<i>sãoo</i>

An apostrophe is used in words such as *timbre* (*tēbr'*), *maître* (*metr'*) and *humble* (*ẽbl'*) in the pronunciation of which a final *ə* (eg *tēbrə*) is possible.

Vowels in bold entries

The long vowels **ā, ē, ī, ō, ū**, have the values *ā, ē, ī, ō, ū*; **ÿ** is to be pronounced *ī*.