

# PHONETICS & PHONOLOGY

English Letters, Sounds & Symbols  
Week 2

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# **ENGLISH**

**LETTERS?**

**SOUNDS?**

**SYMBOLS?**



## Consonants

p pen, top

b back, job

t time, bit

d dog, bad

k cat, pick

g go, bag

f find, off

v view, save

θ think, bath

ð this, with

s see, police

z zero, please

ʃ ship, station

ʒ measure, television

h head, whole

m miss, climb

n need, know

ŋ sing, long

tʃ check, pitch

dʒ jam, age

l like, feel

r right, wrong

j yes, year

w wet, queen

# VOWELS

## short:

ɪ	bit, in
e	best, pen
æ	bad, cat
ʌ	cup, love
ɒ	dog, wash
ʊ	put, good
ə	<u>p</u> otato, under <u>er</u>

## long:

i:	sea, key
ɑ:	car, start
ɔ:	north, bought
u:	blue, new
ɜ:	girl, fur

# DIPHTHONGS

eɪ	day, make
aɪ	try, night
ɔɪ	boy, noise
əʊ	no, low
aʊ	how, loud
ɪə	here, near
eə	there, wear
ʊə	cure, newer

# ENGLISH IS UNIQUE

- A single sound is represented by various letters.

Eg. Did he believe that Caesar could see the people seize the seas?

The silly amoeba stole the key to the machine.

/i:/ is represented by **e, ie, ae, ee, eo, ei, ea, y, oe, ey, and i.**

- Various sounds are represented by a letter.

Eg. My father wanted many a village dame badly.

a is pronounced as /ʌ, ɒ, e, ə, ɪ, eɪ, æ/

- A single sound is represented by a combination of letters.

Eg. *shoot*    *character*                      *Thomas*                      *physics*  
*either*    *deal*                                      *rough*                      *nation*  
*coat*    *glacial*                                      *theater*                      *plain*

- Two sounds are represented by a letter.

Eg. *x is pronounced /ks/ as in six*

*u is pronounced /ju/ as in use*

- Silent letters (no sounds)

Eg. *mnemonic*      *autumn*      *resign* *ghost*

*pterodactyl*      *write*      *hole*      *corps*

*psychology*      *sword*      *debt*      *gnome*

*bough*      *lamb*      *island*      *knot*

# SPELLING POEM

I take it you already know  
Of tough and bough and cough and dough?  
Others may stumble, but not you,  
On hiccough, thorough, laugh and through?  
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,  
To learn of less familiar traps?  
Beware of heard, a dreadful word  
That looks like beard and sounds like bird,  
And dead: it's said like bed, not bead  
For goodness sake don't call it deed!  
Watch out for meat and great and threat  
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt).



A moth is not a moth in mother,  
Nor both in bother, broth in brother,  
And here is not a match for there  
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,  
And then there's dose and rose and lose -  
Just look them up - and goose and choose,  
And cork and work and card and ward,  
And font and front and word and sword,  
And do and go and thwart and cart -  
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!  
A dreadful language? Man alive!  
I'd mastered it when I was five!

By Richard Krogh