

PHONETIC SYMBOLS FOR GENERAL AMERICAN

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The chart below gives the phonetic symbols for all the sounds of General American. Each line shows two illustrative words for the sound, and its IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbol. Asterisks in the illustrative words mark off the sound referred to, where there might be doubt.

Vowel sounds	Vowel sounds before 'r'	Consonant sounds
i FLEECE/BEAD	ɪ NEAR/BEER	tʃ CHIN
ɪ KIT/BID	ɛɹ SQUARE/BEAR	dʒ GIN
eɪ FACE/BAYED	ɑɹ START/BARD	θ THIN
ɛ DRESS/BED	ɝ NURSE/LETT*ER*	ð THIS
æ TRAP/BAD	ɔɹ NORTH/BOARD	ʃ SHIN
ɑ LOT/POD	ʊɹ CURE/CURED	ʒ MEA*S*URE
oʊ GOAT/BODE		ŋ THI*NG*
ʊ FOOT/GOOD		j YES
u GOOSE/BOOED		ɹ RORY
ʌ STRUT/BUD		
aɪ PRICE/BUY		
aʊ MOUTH/BOUGH		
ɔɪ CHOICE/BOY		
ə COMM*A*/A*BOVE		

LO*T*US	ɾ	t pronounced like d (<i>lenited</i>)
CLIN*T*ON	ʔ	Glottal stop, used instead of t
A*LONG*	'	Stressed syllable ə'laŋ
PEOP*L*E	l̩	Syllabic consonant 'pipl̩

The letters **b d f g h k l m n p s t v w z** have their normal English consonant-sounds.