

9 /ɪ/, /i:/ and /i/

The /ɪ/, as in KIT, the /i:/, as in SHEEP and the /i/, as in the final sound in HAPPY are very similar to each other. Try reading the lines of this table horizontally, making the differences between each column clear.

Remember that /ɪ/ is a short sound, and /i:/ is a long sound, made with the tongue a little higher than the /ɪ/. /i/ is a shorter /i:/ sound which comes at the end of a word.



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/ɪ/		/i:/		/i/
lid	→	lead	→	literally
hid	→	heed	→	hippy
pitch	→	peach	→	pity
bid	→	bead	→	body
risen	→	reason	→	rosy
bin	→	been	→	beanie
is	→	ease	→	easy
slip	→	sleep	→	slippery
chip	→	cheap	→	cheaply
wit	→	wheat	→	witty
lip	→	leap	→	lippy
hit	→	heat	→	happy
Tim	→	team	→	tiny
ship	→	sheep	→	sheepishly
bit	→	beat	→	bitterly
dill	→	deal	→	doily
lick	→	leak	→	lucky
grid	→	greed	→	greedy
live	→	leave	→	lively
fill	→	feel	→	finally

13 /æ/, /ʌ/ and /ɒ/

The /æ/, as in CAP, the /ʌ/, as in CUP, and /ɒ/, as in LOT, are often confused. Read the lines of this table horizontally, making the differences between each column clear.

These are all short vowel sounds. /æ/ is a front vowel, while /ʌ/ is made further back in the mouth, and the /ɒ/ vowel has lip rounding.



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/æ/		/ʌ/		/ɒ/
trap	→	truck	→	trot
cap	→	cup	→	cot
pack	→	puppy	→	poppy
hack	→	hug	→	hob
slap	→	slug	→	stop
dad	→	duck	→	dock
apple	→	plum	→	orange
rapper	→	rubber	→	robber
batter	→	butter	→	bottle
haggle	→	hunter	→	toggle
whack	→	once	→	wash
bad	→	blood	→	body
fat	→	flood	→	foreign
swagger	→	swum	→	swan
bag	→	bus	→	box
add	→	udder	→	odd
hand	→	hundred	→	hobbit
cabbage	→	cupboard	→	cobble
plait	→	plug	→	plot
mat	→	mug	→	mop

12 /ʊ/ and /uː/

People often mix up the /ʊ/, as in FOOT, and the /uː/, as in GOOSE. Read the lines of this table horizontally, clearly sounding the different vowels.

Remember that /ʊ/ vowel is short, whereas the /uː/ is a long vowel sound.



/ʊ/		/uː/		/ʊ/		/uː/
foot	→	food		good	→	goose
hood	→	whose		should	→	shoes
woody	→	woozy		look	→	Luke
sugar	→	shoe		full	→	fool
pull	→	pool		pudding	→	poodle
cook	→	cool		butcher	→	boudoir
hook	→	hoover		wolf	→	wound
ambush	→	beauty		bullet	→	boot
rook	→	route		stood	→	stool
woman	→	human		crook	→	cruise

14 /ɜː/ and /ə/

The /ɜː/, as in NURSE, and the /ə/, as in LETTER, are often confused. Read the lines of this table horizontally, making the differences between each column clear.

Remember that the NURSE words use a long vowel (with a silent *r*), and both COMMA and LETTER words end with the schwa. Be careful not to pronounce the *r* sound on the end of the LETTER words.



NURSE /ɜː/		LETTER /ə/		COMMA /ə/
nurse	→	neither	→	Nina
skirt	→	skier	→	Sarah
perfect	→	appear	→	Paula
work	→	whisper	→	wisteria
earth	→	either	→	area
journey	→	jeweller	→	Geneva
church	→	chancer	→	China
bird	→	bouncer	→	bacteria
certain	→	sister	→	samosa
early	→	earlier	→	arena
learn	→	lumbar	→	lava
courtesy	→	corner	→	comma
purple	→	potter	→	panda
stir	→	singer	→	salsa
version	→	visor	→	viva
worse	→	worker	→	Wilma
heard	→	hoover	→	hysteria
German	→	gangster	→	gorilla
earn	→	earner	→	idea
turn	→	tower	→	Tunisia

15 /e/ and /eɪ/

The /e/, as in DRESS, and the /eɪ/, as in FACE, are two more confusing sounds. The /e/ sound is short, while the /eɪ/ is a diphthong. Read across the table.



/e/		/eɪ/		/e/		/eɪ/
rest	→	race		met	→	mate
red	→	raid		neck	→	naked
led	→	laid		ten	→	attain
bread	→	braid		technology	→	taken
mess	→	mace		second	→	sake
beckon	→	bacon		edge	→	age
deaf	→	Dave		chess	→	chase
fell	→	fail		bet	→	bait
fed	→	fade		Jennifer	→	Jane
guess	→	gaze		get	→	gate

16 The sounds of the letter a

The job advert below demonstrates the different ways in which the letter *a* can be used in English spelling. Think about all of the pronunciations that can be required by the letter *a*. Try reading it aloud. Then, listen to the audio track to check if your pronunciation was correct.



This advert has been placed in many national papers because we are planning to add to our fantastic team of Chartered Accountants.

After three triumphant decades, we have established a reputation as a large, and dynamic company, and we are continuing to expand. This is the chance to gain experience in all areas of financial work.

Typical daily activities will include:

- Management of financial systems, and risk analysis.
- Undertaking large-scale audits of major international companies.
- Liaising with clients and advising on financial matters.
- Evaluating and testing fiscal information.
- Giving advice on taxation and associated treasury activities.
- Maintaining accounts archives.
- Advising on business transactions, mergers and acquisitions.
- Preparing financial statements, and annual accounts.
- Financial planning and forecasting.

The ideal candidate will have the following desirable attributes:

- A background in chartered accountancy.
- An exemplary track-record.
- An understanding of the daily tasks explained above.
- Outstanding time management.
- Considerable maturity and the ability to teach lower-ranking trainees.

Deadline for applications: 3rd January. Please address all applications to the Managing Director, Edward Evering.

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