**LEXICAL SETS and PHONEMIC SYMBOLS – VOWELS**

adapted from *Accents in English* (Wells 1982: pp. xviii-ix, 120-2, 166-7)

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| **Keyword** | **RP/BrE1** | **GenAm** | **Example words** |
| **SHORT VOWELS** | | | |
| KIT | ɪ | ɪ | *this, sick, busy, ship, English* |
| DRESS | e | e/ɛ | *bed, said, head, any, friend* |
| TRAP | æ | æ | *bad, dad, thank, back, batter* |
| LOT | ɒ | ɑ/ ɑː | *odd, wash, stop, dog, quality* |
| STRUT | ʌ | ʌ | *cup, mug, front, love, blood* |
| FOOT | ʊ | ʊ | *put, full, good, wolf, butcher* |
| **LONG VOWELS** | | | |
| FLEECE | iː | i/iː | *these, creep, speak, key, people* |
| GOOSE | uː | u/uː | *two, blue, through, shoot, tomb* |
| NURSE | ɜː | ɜr/ɜːr/ ɝ | *stir, learn, refer, hurt, term* |
| NORTH  THOUGHT | ɔː  ɔː | ɔr/ɔːr  ɔ/ɔː | *war, short, port, born, warm*  *taught, sauce, law, broad, hawk* |
| START  BATH  PALM | ɑː  ɑː  ɑː | ɑr/ ɑːr  æ  ɑ/ ɑː | *far, sharp, carve, farm, heart*  *staff, dance, sample, ask, brass*  *psalm, father, bra, spa, lager* |
| **CLOSING DIPHTHONGS** (ending in ɪ) | | | |
| FACE | eɪ | eɪ | *day, take, break, veil, raid* |
| PRICE | aɪ | aɪ | *high, eye, lie, try, arrive* |
| CHOICE | ɔɪ | ɔɪ | *boy, toy, noise, join, coin* |
| **CLOSING DIPHTHONGS** (ending in ʊ) | | | |
| GOAT | əʊ | oʊ | *soap, rode, show, dough, roll* |
| MOUTH | aʊ | aʊ | *now, plough, out, loud, Audi* |
| **CENTRING DIPHTHONGS** (ending in ə) | | | |
| NEAR | ɪə | ɪr | *beer, year, idea, sincere, beard* |
| CURE | ʊə | ʊr | *poor, tour, during, sure, mature* 🡪 ɔː |
| SQUARE | eə/ɛː | er/ ɛr | *fair, various, bear, where, pear* |
| **SCHWA** /ʃwɑː/ | | | |
| commA  lettER | ə  ə | ə  ər | *Africa, America, today, above, control*  *paper, better, figure, calendar, standard* |
| **NON-PHONEMIC** | | | |
| The happY vowel | i | i | *money, busy, lucky, react, committee* |
| The thank yOU vowel | u | - | *to, you, do, who, influence* |

**1**BrE = ‘British English’ (also referred to as ‘BBC English’, ‘Standard Southern British’ (SSB) or ‘General British’ (GB)