

LEXICAL SETS and PHONEMIC SYMBOLS – VOWELS
 adapted from *Accents in English* (Wells 1982: pp. xviii-ix, 120-2, 166-7)

Keyword	RP/BrE ¹	GenAm	Example words
SHORT VOWELS			
KIT	ɪ	ɪ	<i>this, sick, busy, ship, English</i>
DRESS	e	e/ɛ	<i>bed, said, head, any, friend</i>
TRAP	æ	æ	<i>bad, dad, thank, back, batter</i>
LOT	ɒ	ɑ/ɑː	<i>odd, wash, stop, dog, quality</i>
STRUT	ʌ	ʌ	<i>cup, mug, front, love, blood</i>
FOOT	ʊ	ʊ	<i>put, full, good, wolf, butcher</i>
LONG VOWELS			
FLEECE	iː	i/iː	<i>these, creep, speak, key, people</i>
GOOSE	uː	u/uː	<i>two, blue, through, shoot, tomb</i>
NURSE	ɜː	ɜr/ɜːr/ɝ	<i>stir, learn, refer, hurt, term</i>
NORTH	ɔː	ɔr/ɔːr	<i>war, short, port, born, warm</i>
THOUGHT	ɔː	ɔ/ɔː	<i>taught, sauce, law, broad, hawk</i>
START	ɑː	ɑr/ɑːr	<i>far, sharp, carve, farm, heart</i>
BATH	ɑː	æ	<i>staff, dance, sample, ask, brass</i>
PALM	ɑː	ɑ/ɑː	<i>psalm, father, bra, spa, lager</i>
CLOSING DIPHTHONGS (ending in ɪ)			
FACE	eɪ	eɪ	<i>day, take, break, veil, raid</i>
PRICE	aɪ	aɪ	<i>high, eye, lie, try, arrive</i>
CHOICE	ɔɪ	ɔɪ	<i>boy, toy, noise, join, coin</i>
CLOSING DIPHTHONGS (ending in ʊ)			
GOAT	əʊ	oʊ	<i>soap, rode, show, dough, roll</i>
MOUTH	aʊ	aʊ	<i>now, plough, out, loud, Audi</i>
CENTRING DIPHTHONGS (ending in ə)			
NEAR	ɪə	ɪr	<i>beer, year, idea, sincere, beard</i>
CURE	ʊə	ʊr	<i>poor, tour, during, sure, mature → ɔː</i>
SQUARE	eə/ɛː	er/ɛr	<i>fair, various, bear, where, pear</i>
SCHWA /ʃwaː/			
commA	ə	ə	<i>Africa, America, today, above, control</i>
lettER	ə	ər	<i>paper, better, figure, calendar, standard</i>
NON-PHONEMIC			
The happY vowel	i	i	<i>money, busy, lucky, react, committee</i>
The thank yOU vowel	u	-	<i>to, you, do, who, influence</i>

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