1

How many letters, how many sounds?

Spelling and pronunciation

A

All sections with this symbol are on the recording. Listen to them while you read this page.

A2a There are 26 letters in the English alphabet.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

- A2b There are five vowel letters. A E I O U
- A2c And there are 21 consonant letters. BCDFGHJKLMNPQRSTVWXYZ
- But there are more than 40 vowel and consonant sounds in English.

 In some words, the number of letters is the same as the number of sounds.

best

4 letters, 4 sounds

	b	e	s	t
Section 2	1	2	3	4

dentist

7 letters, 7 sounds

d	e	n	t	i	s	t
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

B

But sometimes the number of sounds is different from the number of letters.

A3a In green, ee is one sound, and in happy, pp is one sound.

green

5 letters, 4 sounds

g	r	e	е	n
1	2	3		4

h a p p y 1 2 3 4

A3b In bread, ea is one sound.

bread 5 letters, 4 sounds

b.	r	e	а	d
1	2		3	4

In some words there are silent letters (letters with no sound). In listen, t is silent.

	j	s	t	е	n
1	2	3	_	4	5

A3d In some words, one letter is two sounds. The x in six is two sounds like k + s.

six

3 letters, 4 sounds

s	i	х			i x	
1	2	3	4			

We sometimes write the same sound differently in different words. For example, the e in red sounds like the ea in bread.

Sometimes two words have the same pronunciation but different spellings. (See Section E8 Homophones.)

know - no

A: Do you know? B: No, I don't.

A4b And sometimes two words have the same spelling but different pronunciations.

read (infinitive and present tense) - read (past tense)

A: Do you want to **read** the newspaper?

B: No, thanks, I read it this morning.

A4c Because there are more sounds than letters, we use symbols for pronunciation.

/best/ best /'dentist/ dentist /gri:n/ green /'hæpi/ happy /'kɒfi/ coffee /'lɪsən/ listen /θri:/ three /sɪks/ six /sɒks/ socks /bred/ bread /nəu/ no /nəu/ know /red/ red /red/ read (past tense) /ri:d/ read (infinitive and present tense)

The symbol (look at the beginning of the symbols for *dentist*, *happy*, *coffee*, *listen*) comes before stressed syllables (see Section B Syllables and words).

1.1 Write the number of letters and the number of sounds in these words.

	letters	sounds
green	5	4
1 all		
2 back		
3 could		
4 knee		
5 sixty		
6 thing		=
7 who		
8 address		

1000	1000 F N	12 12		
(A5)	Check with the Key	(on page 138)	Then listen and	reneat
Ca a	Check With the hey	(on page 100).	inch haten and	repeat

1.2	Some pronunciation symbols are easy.	Write these words in their normal	spelling.
-----	--------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------

E	XAMPLE	: /best/ <u>be</u>	2St			
1	/bɪg/		2 /dres/		4 /grv/	
5	/heln/		6 /nekst/	7 /'veri/	8 /wel/	

and the same of th							
(A6)	Check with	the	Key.	Then	listen	and	repeat

1.3 All five words in each group have the same vowel letter – a, e, i, o or u – but one has a different vowel sound. Circle the word with the different vowel sound in each group.

EXAMPLE

TOTAL FIVE TOTO				
on	top	stop	one	gone
1 give	time	sit	think	rich
2 apple	bad	wash	catch	bank
3 much	bus	sun	push	up
4 many	maths	man	ĥat	flat

(A7) Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

1.4 Write words that rhyme (the end part of the word sounds the same).

EXAMPLE

red be d
1 key tr__
2 blue sh__
3 not w___
4 one r__
5 date w__
6 lie w__
7 so sh__
8 beer n

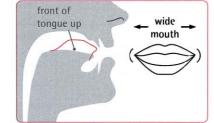




How to make the sound /i:/



[A9a] • /ii/ is a long sound. Look at the diagram. Listen and then say the sound. Make your mouth wide, like a smile. Your tongue touches the sides of your teeth. Target sound: /i/



Sound and spelling



A9b /i/ is usually spelled ee or ea. Listen and say these words. see agree eat seat team



Listen and say these other words with /ii/.

- field piece
- these metre secret evening equal Peter museum European Chinese Japanese complete

key ev

ski kilo litre pizza police machine magazine

people



And Now listen and say these sentences. You will need to pause the recording to give yourself enough time to repeat.

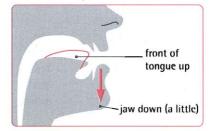
- 1 Can you see the sea?
- 2 A piece of pizza, please.
- 3 Peter's in the team.
- 4 A kilo of peaches and a litre of cream.
- 5 Please can you teach me to speak Portuguese?



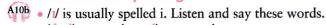
How to make the sound /1/



A10a // is a short sound. Look at the diagram. Listen and then say the sound. Make your mouth a bit less wide than for /ii/. Your tongue is a bit further back in your mouth than for /ii/. Target sound: /1/



Sound and spelling



if listen miss dinner swim

A100 • Listen and say these other words with /1/. busy business building system

Now listen and say these phrases.

- 1 fifty-six
- 2 dinner in the kitchen
- 3 a cinema ticket
- 4 a picture of a building
- 5 big business



A10e Note: Eight letters of the alphabet have the sound /i:/. Listen and repeat. BCDEGPTV

A10f Note: Units 2 to 10 focus on vowel sounds in stressed syllables (see Section B Syllables and words). Vowel sounds in unstressed syllables often have the weak vowel /a/. Listen and repeat.

agree equal kitchen museum Peter picture pizza

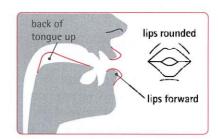
A10g Note: There is sometimes an /i/ sound at the end of a word in an unstressed syllable (see Section B Syllables and words), e.g. happy, coffee, busy. This sound is like /it/ but shorter. Listen and repeat. happy coffee busy sixty

2.1 Put these /iː/ words in the dialogues.

	email evening police secret Steve TV
	1 A: What shall we do this? B: Let's stay at home and watch 2 A: Let me read that B: No - it's a secret! 3 A: You know my friend? B: Yes. A: Well, he's got a new job. He's joined the!
A11	Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat. What shall we do?
2.2	Find the /I/ words from these clues.
•	EXAMPLE A thousand thousand is a
2.3	Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat. Circle all the /iː/ sounds and underline all the /i/ sounds.
	big busy dinner give green in listen meet office people pizza please repeat six tea three
A13	Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.
2.4	Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences.
	EXAMPLE Let's have pizza for dinner . a repeat. 1 We're always busy . b people in the museum. 2 Would you like tea . c six o'clock. 3 Give me that big . d in the office. 4 There were only three . e or coffee? 5 Listen and . f green book, please. 6 Let's meet at . g for dinner.
A14	Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.
2.5	Listen and circle the word you hear. Check with the Key. If any of these are difficult for you, go to Section E3 <i>Sound pairs</i> for further practice.
A15	1 leave / live (⇒ sound pair 1) 2 knee / near (⇒ sound pair 2) 3 litter / letter (⇒ sound pair 3)

How to make the sound /uː/

A16a • /uː/ is a long sound. Look at the diagram. Listen and then say the sound. Make your lips into a tunnel shape. Your tongue is a long way back in your mouth. Target sound: /uː/



Sound and spelling

A16b • /uː/ is often spelled oo, ou, oe, u, ue or ew. Listen and say these words.

> too group shoe

• When the spelling is u or ew, there is often a /j/ sound before the /uː/. Listen and say these words.

music

В

C

D

• There are also other spellings of /uː/. Listen and say these other words with /uː/.

iuice fruit

A16e Now listen and say these phrases.

1 me too

2 work in groups

3 new shoes

4 red and blue

5 listen to the music

6 forty-two

7 fruit juice

Note: /juː/ is the name of the letter U in the alphabet.

How to make the sound /u/

A17a • /u/ is a short sound. Look at the diagram. Listen and then say the sound. Your tongue is not so far back as for /u:/. Target sound: /u/

Sound and spelling

A17b • /u/ is often spelled u, oo or ou. Listen and say these words.

full sugar book foot would

A17c • Listen and say this other word with /u/.

woman

A17d • Now listen and say these phrases.

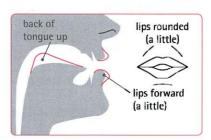
1 My bag's full.

2 Where's my book?

3 my left foot

4 a kilo of sugar

5 Who's that woman?



6 Here's a

3.1 Circ	e the	words	with	/uː/.	(There	are	nine.	۱
----------	-------	-------	------	-------	--------	-----	-------	---

food four June look news room school soup spoon sugar town Tuesday two

A18	Listen to check your answers.	Check with the	Key. Then	listen and r	epeat
1.0 P./			,		

3.2	Put the /ui/ words from Exercise 3.1 in the sentence
	1 Do you like fast food ?
	2 Are you coming to?
	3 It's the second of
	4 Let's watch the
	5 is over there.



Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.

for your

3.3 Circle the words with /u/. (There are six.)

book cookery cough could good looking lunch soon sugar thought through

- A20 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.
- 3.4 Put the /u/ words from Exercise 3.3 in the sentences.

	a c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c	C 101	****	35 110111	LACI CIS	. 0.0	 ciic	Serie	ciices.
1	Do	you	take			?			

2 _____ you help me? I'm _____ for a _____ cookery

- Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.
- 3.5 Circle the words that have /uː/ or /ʊ/, then put them in the correct column.
 - 1 Is it really true?
 - 2 You're standing on my foot!
 - 3 Are you a good cook?
 - 4 Where's my toothbrush?
 - 5 Do you push or pull to open this door?

/u:/	/ʊ/
true	foot

- 6 I'll be ready soon.
- 7 Here's your ticket don't lose it!
- 8 Go through that door over there.
- 9 My keys! Where did I put them?

- Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.
- 3.6 Listen and circle the word you hear. Check with the Key. If any of these are difficult for you, go to Section E3 *Sound pairs* for further practice.

Father and mother $/\alpha x/$ and $/\Lambda/$

How to make the sound /a:/

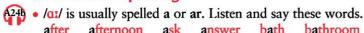
В

Important for listening

A24f

6243 • /qɪ/ is a long sound. Look at the diagram. Listen and then say the sound. Open your mouth wide. Target sound: /aː/

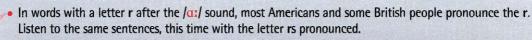
Sound and spelling



afternoon ask answer can't dance fast father tomato glass far park star start

• Listen and say these other words with /aː/. laugh (The letter I in half is silent.) heart half

- A244 Listen and say these sentences.
 - 1 How far's the car park?
 - 2 We went to a large bar full of film stars.
 - 3 We're starting in half an hour.



 Some people, especially in the north of England, pronounce the letters a or au as /æ/ in some of these words, Listen,

after afternoon ask answer aunt bath bathroom class dance fast glass laugh

Listen to these sentences, first with /aː/, then with /æ/.

1 See you tomorrow afternoon.

3 We were laughing and dancing in the classroom.

tonque down

relaxed lips

relaxed jaw

2 I'll ask my aunt.

4 I left my glasses in the bathroom.

Note: The name of the letter R is pronounced /aː/ or /aːr/.

Note: The word are is often pronounced /aː/ or /aːr/. (See Unit 40.)

How to make the sound $/\Lambda$



^25a • /ሌ/ is a short sound. Look at the diagram. Listen and then say the sound. Open your mouth wide. Target sound: //

Sound and spelling



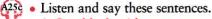
D

^25b • /√ is usually spelled u, but sometimes ou or o. Listen and say these words.

> bus colour London Monday month come cup front mother nothing number study uncle under

Note: The words son and sun have the same pronunciation.

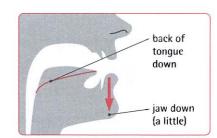
Note: The number one is pronounced /wan/.



- 1 Good luck with your exam next month!
- 2 Take the number one bus.
- 3 I said 'Come on Monday', not 'Come on Sunday'.
- 4 My brother's studying in London.

A25d Important for listening

Some people, especially in the north of England, say |v| instead of |A|. Listen to the same sentences, this time with lol.

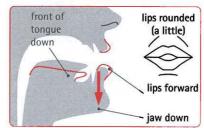


Listen and	write the	words in the	correct	column.				
artist	garden	March	part	square	talk	warm v	vatch	
words with		words with	······	owel sou	nds			
		Then listen a						
busines			home	lots	money	mother	push	
	 the Key.	Then listen a	again and		ne IAI wo	rd.		
butter	carpet		hard h		love	Prague	son	3
2 I'd	et my	too	in	! hair.		en again an	d repeat.	
Listen and	circle the		ear. Checl	k with th			-	cult for you, go to
1 heart / h 2 far / fou 3 cat /cut 4 look / lu 5 luck / lo 6 butter /	r uck ock	(⇒ sound)	pair 8) pair 9) pair 5) pair 10)					

How to make the sound /p/



A30a • /p/ is a short sound. Look at the diagram. Listen and say the sound. Round your lips a little. The front of your tongue is low and towards the back of your mouth. Target sound: /p/



В

Sound and spelling



• /p/ is usually spelled o, and sometimes a. Listen and repeat. box chocolate clock coffee copy cross doctor gone got holiday hospital hot job lock lot long not stop possible shop song sorry top wrong quality want wash wasn't watch



Note: The word cough is pronounced /kpf/.

Note: The word was is sometimes pronounced with /p/. (See Unit 40.)



- A300 Now listen and say these sentences.
 - 1 Have you got a lot of shopping?
 - 2 John's gone to the shops.
- 3 How much did your holiday cost?
- 4 She said the coffee wasn't very good, but I thought it was.

front of

tonque

down

lips very

rounded

lips foward

jaw down



for listening

Most Americans pronounce these words differently. Listen.

- 1 Have you got a lot of shopping?
- 3 How much did your holiday cost?
- 2 John's gone to the shops.
- 4 She said the coffee wasn't very good, but I thought it was.

C

How to make the sound /ɔː/



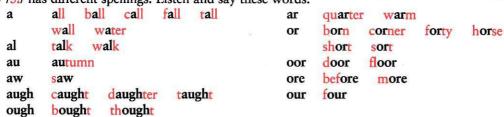
A31a • /oː/ is a long sound. Look at the diagram. Listen and say the sound. Round your lips more than for /p/. Target sound: /ɔː/



Sound and spelling



A31h • /o:/ has different spellings. Listen and say these words.



- A31c Now listen and say these phrases.
 - 1 quarter past four
- 4 walking on water
- 2 born in autumn
- 5 the fourth door on the fourth floor
- 3 have some more



When there is a letter r after /oː/, most Americans, Scots and Irish, and some other English speakers pronounce this r. Listen.

- 1 quarter past four
- 3 have some more
- 5 the fourth door on the fourth floor

- 2 born in autumn
- 4 walking on water

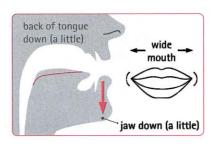
5.1	Write these words.		
	Example /boks/	3 /wont/4 /'wontid/	5 /'spri/6 /wpt/
A32	Listen to check your answers. Che	ck with the Key. Then listen again	and repeat.
5.2	Listen and complete the dialogues	s with these /p/ words.	
A33	box chocolates clock what what	doctor gone got holida	y on stopped
	1 A: What time is it? B: I don't know. The	?	What time is it?
5.3	Write the underlined verbs in the EXAMPLE We buy everything at the supern 1 I think about you every day.		verything at the supermarket.
	 2 We always <u>walk</u> home from s 3 I <u>catch</u> the first bus in the mode. 4 My daughter <u>teaches</u> English. 		home from school. first bus in the morning. English.
A34	Check with the Key. Then listen ar	nd repeat.	
5.4	Write the names of the things in (They all have /p/ or /ɔː/.)	the picture.	
	EXAMPLE 1 bot-fle Check with the Key.		SP C
5.5	Listen and write the missing /p/ a	nd /ɔː/ words.	
A35	This is our kitchen. On the table wine and some as as 's asleep in the co		
	Check with the Key. Then listen ar	nd speak together with the record	ng.
5.6	Listen and circle the word you her Section E3 <i>Sound pairs</i> for more		nese are difficult for you, go to
A36	1 not / note (⇒ sound p 2 luck / lock (⇒ sound p 3 coat / caught (⇒ sound p	air 10) 5 walk / work	(⇒ sound pair 13) (⇒ sound pair 14)

Bread and jam /e/ and /æ/

How to make the sound /e/



• /e/ is a short sound. Look at the diagram. Listen and say the sound. Open your mouth quite wide. Target sound: /e/



Sound and spelling



• /e/ is usually spelled e, but sometimes ea, ie, a or ai. Listen and repeat.

- letter red sentence leg
- bread head read (past tense) ea
- friend ie
- a any many
- ai again said

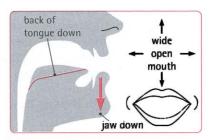


- 6379 Listen and say these sentences.
 - 1 Tell me again.
 - 2 Send me a cheque.
 - 3 Correct these sentences.
 - 4 Twenty to twelve.
 - 5 Help your friend.

How to make the sound /æ/



A38a • /æ/ is a short sound. Look at the diagram. Listen and say the sound. Open your mouth wide. Target sound: /æ/



Sound and spelling



438b • /æ/ is usually spelled a. Listen and repeat.

camera factory hat manager plan traffic jam



- Listen and say these sentences.
 - 1 Thanks for the cash.
 - 2 I ran to the bank.
 - 3 Where's my black jacket?
 - 4 That man works in a jam factory.
 - 5 Let me carry your bags.

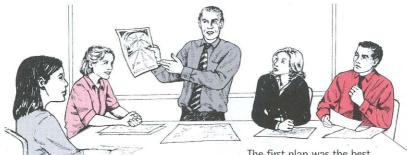
6.1 Write these words.

EXAMPLE /	mæp/map		
1 /hænd/		5 /men/	
2 /best/		6 /'meni/	
3 /eg/		7 /hæv/	
4 /mæn/		8 /nekst/	

- Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.
- Seven of these numbers have /e/. Which are they?

	SONON												
3	71	8	10	11	12	13	17	18	20	70	80	100	

- Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.
- Match the phrases to make sentences with an /æ/ and an /e/.



The first plan was the best.

1 The first plan was the best 2 He said 3 How many 4 I haven't got 5 I'll be back

6 My friends live

- a any milk.
- b again tomorrow.
- c in a flat over there.
- d stamps do you need?
- e was the best.
- f 'Thank you.'
- Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat. A41
- Listen and circle the word you hear. Check with the Key. If any of these are difficult for you, go to Section E3 Sound pairs for more practice.
- 1 men / man $(\Rightarrow$ sound pair 15) 2 cat / cut (⇒ sound pair 9) 3 had I hard (⇒ sound pair 7) 4 pepper / paper (⇒ sound pair 16) 5 head I heard (⇒ sound pair 17) 6 set / sit (⇒ sound pair 3) 7 better / butter (⇒ sound pair 18)

My birthday's on Thursday

How to make the sound /31/

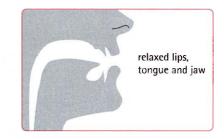


43a • /31/ is a long sound. Look at the diagram. Listen and say the sound. To make this sound, your mouth and your tongue should be very relaxed. Target sound: /31/



Note: /3:/ is a sound English speakers often make when they A43b aren't sure what to say, and we often write it 'er'. Listen.

A: What date is it today? B: Er, I think it's the tenth.



В

Sound and spelling



430 • /31/ is spelled ir, or, ur, our, ear or er. Listen and say these words.

birthday first thirty world or word work worse worst Thursday ur turn our journey early earth heard learn ear Germany prefer dessert weren't

university Note: The words her, hers and were are often pronounced with /31/. (See Units 38 and 40.)

A43d • Now listen and say these sentences.





My birthday's on Thursday the thirty-first and hers is a week later.

- 1 My birthday's on Thursday the thirty-first, and hers is a week later.
- 2 When would you prefer, Tuesday or Thursday?
- 3 That was the worst journey in the world!
- 4 Have you ever heard this word?
- 5 A: The cakes weren't very good.
 - B: I thought they were.
- 6 She went to university to learn German.

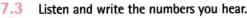
Important for listening

Notice that there's always an r in the spelling of /si/. Most Americans, Scots and Irish, and some other English speakers pronounce these rs (see Unit 22). Listen.

- 1 My birthday's on Thursday the thirty-first, and hers is a week later.
- 2 When would you prefer, Tuesday or Thursday?
- 3 That was the worst journey in the world!
- 4 Have you ever heard this word?
- 5 A: The cakes weren't very good.
 - B: I thought they were.
- 6 She went to university to learn German.

-	-					543	0.325	102005			
7.	1	Listen	and	nut	the	words	in	the	correct	arou	ns
		LISCOIL	anu	put	CIIC	WOIGS		ciic	COLLECT	giou	55.

7.1	Listen and put the words in the correct groups.
A44	beard ear chair church curtains dirty door floor four girl horse large March near nurse pair parked purse shirt shorts stars surfer third warm wearing
7.2	words with /3:/ words with /3:/ words with /a:/ words with /a:/ words with other sounds 1 church 1 door 1 car 1 beard 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 7 8 9 9 Check with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.
A45	Look at the picture and complete the sentences, using the words from Exercise 7.1. 1 The
7.3	Listen and write the numbers you hear.



A46	EXAMPLE 42			
	1	3	5	7
	2	4	6	8

Check with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.

7.4 Listen and circle the word you hear. Check with the Key. If you find any of these difficult, go to Section E3 *Sound pairs* for further practice.

A47	1 shirts / shorts	(⇒ sound pair 14)	3 bird / beard	(⇒ sound pair 20)
	2 first / fast	(⇒ sound pair 19)	4 heard I head	(⇒ sound pair 17)