

# Sounds in English

Here is a list of the sounds in English, in alphabetical order, without pictures.

The letter/s between slash marks show the **sound**, not the letter name, so sometimes the spelling is not the same as the letter inside the slash marks e.g. for sound /r/ in roar, the word wrench is listed because it starts with sound /r/.

This list is useful for parents who want to check and see if their child can **say** all the sounds in the words. To check this, look at the line of words under the sound (ie. the line under /a/ in apple), and see the list of words. (Usually there are 6 words in the line.) Say each word twice, then listen to see if your child can **say** the word clearly.

/a/ in **apple**

**apple, am, alligator, anteater, ash, atlas**

/ae/ in ice cream **sundae**

ice cream **sundae, aim, able, ace, ape, apron, day**

/air/ in **airplane**

**airplane, aircraft, airport, bear, mare, pair**

/ar/ in **star**

**star, art, arch, argue, bar, far**

# Sounds in English

/b/ in **bat** and **ball**

**bat** and **ball**, **bee**, **boo**, **back**, **bark**, **bin**

/k/ (c) in **clamp** (I've included c and k so that the entire alphabet is listed.)

**clamp**, **cross**, **crisp**, **clap**, **colt**, **crust**

/ch/ in **chickens** peck

**chickens** peck, **cheese**, **chimp**, **cheerful**, **chain**, **child**

/d/ in **dog**

**dog**, **deer**, **day**, **den**, **dip**, **dash**

/e/ in **egg**

**egg**, **echo**, **edge**, **end**, **ever**, **elbow**

/ee/ in **seeds** for **Eve**

**seeds** for **Eve**, **eat**, **evil**, **me**, **he**, **see**

/er/ in **letter**

**letter**, **boxer**, **earn**, **ever**, **her**, **fur**

# Sounds in English

/f/ in **fly** **swat**

**fly** **swat**, **family**, **farm**, **fish**, **flame**, **first**

/g/ in **grab**

**grab**, **glue**, **gate**, **grain**, **gold**, **go-cart**

/h/ in **here**

**here**, **hi**, **hello**, **hamburgers**, **hand**, **helicopter**

/i/ in **it's** **itchy**

**it's** **itchy**, **it**, **igloo**, **in**, **if**, **ill**

/ie/ in bow **tie** **inside**

bow **tie** **inside**, **die**, **fly**, **ice**, **lie**, **pie**

/j/ in **just** **stop** **right** **there**

**just** **stop** **right** **there**, **jaw**, **jeans**, **jeep**, **jellyfish**, **jewel**

/k/ in **keys**

**keys**, **kangaroo**, **kettle**, **kind**, **kiwi**, **koala**

# Sounds in English

/l/ in **ladder**

**ladder, laptop, lamp, lady, letter, lunch**

/m/ in **mountains**

**mountains, magnet, manners, me, met, milk**

/n/ in **necklace**

**necklace, nip, news, name, night, number**

/ng/ in **sing**

**sing, bang, bring, farming, greeting, ping pong**

/ng g/ in **fingers** (This is an extra sound, to help students hear the extra sound /g/.)

**fingers, Angus, fingerprint, fungus, hunger**

/ngk/ in **Pingk Zingk** (Trade Mark) (This extra sound helps students hear sound /k/)

(The /ngk/ sound is only used at the end of a word in English.)

**Pingk Zingk, bangk, dringk, Frangk, stangk, thangk**

/o/ in **orange**

**orange, ostriches, on, off, officer, omlette**

# Sounds in English

/oe/ on **toe** bone

**toe** bone, **blow**, **crow**, **hoe**, **low**, **show**

/oo/ in **look**

**look**, **book**, **hood**, **stood**, **pull**, **push**

/oo/ in **moon**

**moon**, **kangaroo**, **noon**, **soon**, **too**, **true**

/or/ in **ordinary** dots

**ordinary** dots, **all**, **draw**, **four**, **or**, **paw**

/ow/ in **Ow!** **Ouch!**

**Ow!** **Ouch!**, **chow**, **cowl**, **down**, **out**, **owl**

/oy/ in **boil** **oysters**

**boil** **oysters**, **boy**, **joy**, **oil**, **soy**, **toy**

/p/ in **pinch**

**pinch**, **pace**, **pack**, **paddock**, **panther**, **plate**

# Sounds in English

/kw/ (qu) in **qu**arrel

**qu**arrel, **qu**ins, **qu**ilt, **qu**it, **qu**ite, **qu**iz

/r/ in **r**oar

**r**oar, **r**ib, **r**ot, **r**ace, **r**ain, **w**rench

/s/ in **s**nake

**s**nake, **s**and, **s**ay, **s**ea, **s**even, **s**tamp

/sh/ in **sh**h

**sh**h, **ch**ef, **d**ish, **sh**e, **sh**ell, **sh**op

/t/ in **t**ouch

**t**ouch, **t**able, **t**adpole, **t**erm, **T**homas, **t**ooth

/th/ in **th**irsty

**th**irsty, **th**anks, **T**hео, **th**in, **th**ud, **th**ump

/th/ in **th**ere

**th**ere, **th**e, **th**at, **th**ese, **th**is, **th**ose

# Sounds in English

/u/ in **up**

**up, under, us, upset, upside down, other**

/ue/ in **rescue** and **cute**

**rescue** and **cute, emu, few, human, use, venue**

/v/ in **valley**

**valley, vacuum, village, vet, violin, visit**

/w/ in **worms** **wiggle**

**worms wiggle, wander, water, wipe, wood, woof**

/w/ or /hw/ in **whale**

**whale, what, wheel, when, whisper, why**

/ks/ (x) in **axe/ax** (The /ks/ sound is at the end of the words, because that's how we use sound /ks/ in English.)

**axe/ax, box, ducks, fax, fix, flex**

/y/ in **yawn**

**yawn, you, yam, young, yap, yowl**

# Sounds in English

/z/ in **zoom**

**zoom, zap, zebra, zero, zoo, zucchini**

/zh/ in **explosions**

**explosions, Asia, illusion, Indonesia, pleasure, vision**

If your child or student has trouble saying a sound, put a pencil mark and date next to that sound. If your child is very young (younger than 5 years of age) and only has trouble with a couple of sounds, he or she will probably grow out of the difficulty by seven years of age.

If your child is 5 or over, and has trouble with several sounds, it would be very worthwhile to consider speech therapy. You could even start with information on the internet.

If you would like someone else to teach your child phonemic awareness, go to my website to learn more about my Phonemic Awareness Video Course – where I teach the essential phonemic awareness skills in 3 hours, then show students how to apply that knowledge to letters and begin to read. This course makes sure students are properly prepared for learning to read.

Merrin