

GENERAL AMERICAN VOWELS

i **BEAT** ee High Front
she, serene, **fee**, **cream**, believe,
rece**ive**, amo**eba**, high**ly**

I **BIT** i High Central Front
fit, income, h**ymn**, wome**n**,
lett**uce**, bu**ild**, mount**ain**, for**age**

e-ei **BAIT** e-ey Mid Front*
fate, the**y**, cla**y**, gra**in**, stra**ight**,
ga**uge**, gre**at**, ne**igh**bor

ε **BET** e THE EPSILON
Low-Mid Front
let, sever, sca**re**, he**ad**, instead,
sa**ys**, sa**id**, gue**st**, fri**end**

æ **BAT** a THE ASH
Low Front
pa**nic**, racket, lau**gh**,
can, class, ant

ai **BITE** ahv Low Mid Glide
eye, **I**, isla**nd**, tide, lie**s**, **my**,
thi**gh**, bu**y**, gui**de**, ai**sl**e

GLIDES = DIPHTHONGS

-**APN** uses / **y** / and / **w** /

-**IPA** uses / **ɨ** / and / **ʊ** /

/ **j / is an /**ɨ**-like consonant that is used by many dictionaries.

oo **BOOT** Close Back
you, yew, to, **two**, **too**, flu,
thro**ugh**, threw, crew, cru**ise**,
true, **tour**, shoe, lie**ut**enant

oo **BOOK** High Central Back
hood, should, put, wolf

o-oh **BOAT** Mid Back*
note, no, or, thro**at**, coat,
tho**ugh**, slo**w**, to**e**

oi **BOY** Low-Mid Glide
bo**y**, to**y**, vo**ice**, bo**il**

ah **BOUGHT** Low-Mid Back
fo**ugh**t, cau**gh**t, gua**rd**, **all**,
pa**w**, **awe**, au**nt**, auto, he**ar**t

ah **BAR** Low Back
fa**ther**, ro**t**, co**t**, ro**b**,
pa**lm**, ca**lm**, wa**lk**

ou **BOUT** Low Back Glide
cro**w**d, plo**w**, abo**ut**,
o**ut**, ho**use**, bo**ugh**

uh **But** THE SCHWA
Mid Central
abo**ut**, ta**ken**, pen**ci**l, co**ll**ide, su**pp**ly
Can**ada**, ba**na**na, si**by**l, wa**nt**ed, ro**se**s

ʌ **BUT** THE WEDGE
Low-Mid Central
sh**u**t, lu**ck**y, u**p**, o**th**er,
to**u**gh, wa**s**, flo**o**d, lo**v**e

R-COLORING = RHOTERIZATION

R is a semi-vowel that **colors** or **erases** other vowels. ®

/ **r** / and / **ɹ** / are used for pure R.

IPA uses / **ɚ** **ɝ** **ɑ̣** **ɔ̣** / for R-coloring.

u

ʊ

o-ou

ɔɪ

ɔ-ɒ

ɑ

æʊ-ɑʊ

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IPA pure vowel

IPA glide

Dictionary.com
Transcription

Word = red letters show variant spelling

Regional Variant

* The Standard **E** and **O** are mostly pronounced as glides, though not always and not by all speakers.
Dictionaries usually show only an **e** or an **o** for reasons of simplicity.

** The /j/ is meant for words like "Your" /jʊ/ and "Europe" /jʊərəp/.
In English this is confusing, so dictionaries often use /y/ even if it says it's IPA.

*** The Upsilon is often written with a /ʊ/ in APN.

Ⓜ English has more than one **R**, and the many symbols for **R** are for distinguishing dialects and accents.

The symbols may include / ɹ ɹ̥ ɹ̄ ɹ̃ ɹ̄ ɹ̅ /, but other languages' R's have different symbols. Just remember they are symbols for an **R**.

Dictionary.com and others use a simple /er/, /ur/, and /air/ to show **R-coloring**.

R-Coloring Examples

Stressed [ɚ]: *hearse, assert, mirth, work, turkey, myrtle*

Unstressed [ə]: *standard, dinner, Lincolnshire, editor, measure, martyr*

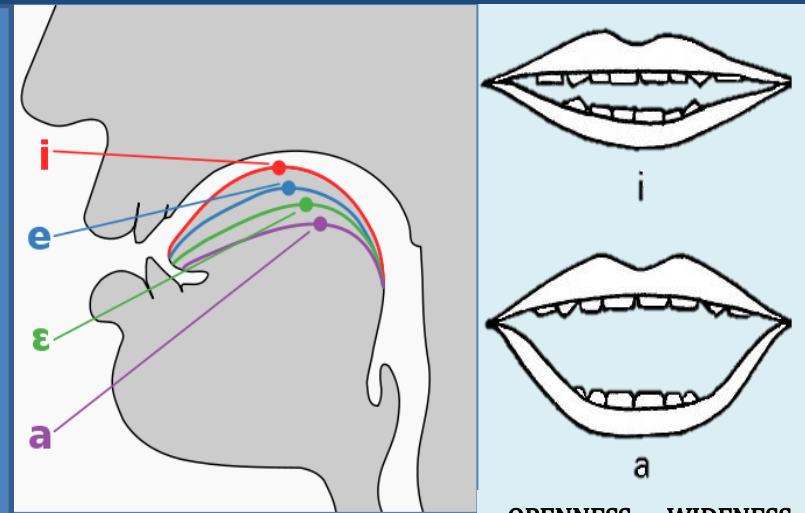
Stressed [ɑː]: *start, car arm*

Stressed [ɔː]: *north, war*

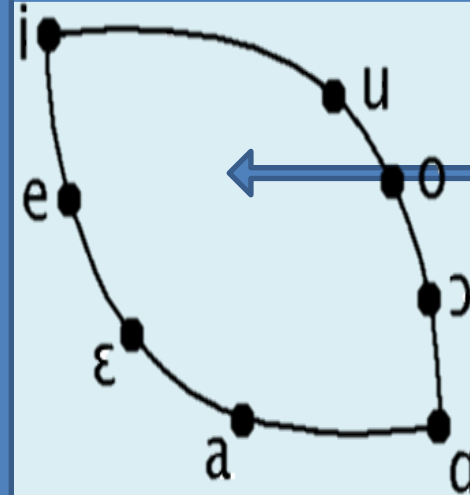
Two symbols may mean that the vowel is clearer and more distinct.

[ɛɹ] mare [eɹ] there [ɔɹ] sort [ɑɹ] warm [oɹ] boar

J



OPENNESS or WIDENESS
A feature foreign to many students.



ROUNDEDNESS
affects back vowels.
It is the feature that Differentiates /ɑ/ from /ɒ/.

