

Phonetic Codes for American English

NOTE: When creating or editing a pronunciation, always type the “Original Text” word with all lower case, even if it is a Proper Noun. Insert a space between each code in the Pronunciation line. Look at the Examples below for reference.

Lexical Stress

Lexical stress	Description	Example
1	Indicates primary stressed syllable; always behind code letter, no space between related code letter and this number	obJECT: V b dZ E1 k t OBject: A1 b dZ E k t
2	Indicates secondary stressed syllable; always behind code letter, no space between related code letter and this number	DEpartMENTal: d i2 p A r m E1 n t @ l
? (question mark)	Glottal stop - the sound in the middle of “uh-oh!”	button: b V1 ? l n
_ (underscore)	Generates a small pause	chicken nugget: tS l k @ n _ n V g @ t

Phonetic Codes: Vowels

Sound	Code	Example	Note
<u>corner</u>	r=	k O1 r n r=	Also: <u>bird</u> , <u>person</u> , <u>fur</u>
<u>pot</u>	A	p A1 t	depending on dialect, A and O may be the same
<u>part</u>	A r	p A1 r t	stress (1 or 2) goes after the A
<u>thought</u>	O	T O1 t	depending on dialect, A and O may be the same
<u>corn</u>	O r	k O1 r n	stress (1 or 2) goes after the O
<u>lit</u>	l	l l1 t	
<u>neat</u>	i	n i1 t	
<u>zoo</u>	u	z u1	
<u>hut</u>	V	h V1 t	
<u>put</u>	U	p U1 t	
<u>pat</u>	{	p {1 t	
<u>net</u>	E	n E1 t	
<u>allow</u>	@	@ l aU1	Also: <u>banana</u> , <u>nickel</u> , <u>the</u>
<u>main</u>	EI	m EI1 n	
<u>high</u>	AI	h AI1	
<u>boy</u>	OI	b OI1	
<u>nose</u>	@U	n @U1 z	
<u>pout</u>	aU	p aU1 t	

Phonetic Codes: Single Consonants

Sound	Code	Example	Note
b ad	b	b {1 d	
count t	t	k_h aU1 n t	
t ab	t_h	t_h {1 b	aspirated t (starts words)
bet ter	4	b E1 4 r=	flapped t
stop p	p	s t O1 p	
p ine	p_h	p_h A11 n	aspirated p (starts words)
d ate	d	d E11 t	
work k	k	w r=1 k	
c one	k_h	k_h @U1 n	aspirated k (starts words)
g ag	g	g {1 g	do not use for ng sound
m an	m	m {1 n	
n ose	n	n @U1 z	do not use for ng sound
r ose	r	r @U1 z	
l et	l	l E1 t	
f at	f	f {1 t	
v ote	v	v @U1 t	
s at	s	s {1 t	
z oo	z	z u1	
meas u re	Z	m E1 Z @ r=	
w ait	w	w IE1 t	
y acht	j	j O1 t	
h it	h	h l1t	
j ump	dZ	dZ V1 m p	

Phonetic Codes: Digraph Consonants (written in English with two consonants)

Sound	Code	Example	Note
<u>th</u>is	D	D l1 s	
<u>th</u>in	T	T l1 n	
<u>sh</u>in	S	S l1 n	
<u>ch</u>in	tS	tS l1 n	
ri<u>ng</u>	N	r l1 N	