

The Standard English Accent

The Phonetic Alphabet

a: heart	ɔ: law	u: blue	i: meet	ɜ: search
ɪ sit	e let	æ happy	ʌ summer	ɒ dog
ʊ look	ə around	əʊ know	aʊ now	aɪ sigh
eɪ late	ɔɪ boy	ɪə here	eə hair	ʊə poor
p pip	b bit	t table	d day	k kick
g goat	f four	v very	θ think	ð them
h hot	s swim	z zero	ʃ ship	ʒ measure
tʃ chip	dʒ jaw	m man	n none	ŋ sing
r right	l light	w where	j yes	ɸ hall

Phonetic symbols represent speech sounds, so called "phonemes". Phonemes are the smallest building blocks in English. There are vowels, diphthongs, triphthongs and consonants.

Consonants are produced through creating some kind of obstruction for the breath or voice stream. The English consonants are divided into groups according to the manner and placement of articulation. If the manner and/or placement is incorrect for Standard English then there will be an accent. The consonants can be voiced or voiceless.

Vowel sounds are made through creating different shapes of the vocal tract with the tongue and lips. There are long and short vowel sounds.