

Open Learning

Translation Department

Second Year

Second Term

Phonetics

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4

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Handwritten blue letters and symbols on the right margin: M, K, J, E, R, X, D, G, C, Y, F, M, C, A.

GOOD MORNING!

Vowel Sounds

Instructor: Can you read the following?

- /lɛt ʌs pleɪ ə geɪm/

- /ɑː juː ə 'weɪk/

Student: Let us play a game. Are you awake?

Instructor: Ok! I am going to ask a number of students to come to the board to write the transcription of some words.

Now, the first word is (wish).

Student: /wɪʃ/.

Instructor: Exactly! The second word is (cliff).

Student: /klɪf/.

Instructor: Yes. The third word is (head).

Student: /hed/.

Instructor: Yes. The fourth word is (friend).

Student: /frend/.

Instructor: Yes. The fifth word is (fat).

Student: /fæt/.

Instructor: Yes. The sixth word is (luck).

Student: /lʌk/.

Instructor: Yes. The seventh word is (true).

Student: /truː/.

Instructor: Yes. The eighth word is (future).

Student: /fjuːtʃə/.

Instructor: Ok. The last word is (juice).

Student: /dʒuːs/.

Instructor: Yes.

* * *

Last time, we finished describing consonants. *We said that we describe consonants in terms of three things:*

1. Voicing,
2. Place of Articulation,
3. Manner of articulation.

We put all of these things in a table, and we described all the consonants.

Let us just review the manner of articulation. How many manners of articulation do we have?

Student: Six.

Instructor: That's right. They are **plosive, fricative, affricate, nasal, lateral and approximant.**

Then, we talked about vowels. What are the characteristics of vowels? What makes vowels different from consonants?

Student: Vowels are all voiced.

Instructor: That's right. What else?

Student: There are no obstructions of the air.

Instructor: Yes.

We also said that we have two types of vowels:

1. **Monophthongs**
2. **Diphthongs**

We also have a third type of vowels, which is **triphthongs.** Now, how many monophthongs do we have in English?

Student: Twelve.

Instructor: That's right! Monophthongs are twelve in number; we also call them **pure vowels.**

Now, let us review them together.

➤ **Vowel sounds:**

Short Vowels

1. /ɪ/ sit /sit/
2. /e/ or /ɛ/ set /set/ or /set/
3. /æ/ sat /sat/
cat /kat/

4. /ʌ/ cut /kʌt/

but /bʌt/

such /sʌtʃ/

5. /ɒ/ cross /krɒs/

ox /ɒks/

6. /ʊ/ put /pʊt/

7. /ə/ (**schwa**) about /əbaʊt/

together /tə'geðə/

alarm /ə'lɑ:m/

picture /pɪktʃə/

among /ə'mʌŋ/

further /'fɜ:rðə/

Long Vowels

1. /i:/ seat /si:t/

2. /ɜ:/ (**long schwa**) word /wɜ:d/

learn /lɜ:n/

earth /ɜ:θ/

girl /gɜ:l/

3. /ɑ:/ card /kɑ:d/

alarm /ə'lɑ:m/

ask /ɑ:sk/

star /stɑ:/

far /fɑ:/

4. /ɔ:/ horse /hɔ:s/

lord /lɔ:d/

5. /u:/ food /fu:d/

Now, what are the criterion to describe vowels?

Vowels can be measured by three things: the **heightness**,

the backness, and the roundness.

1. The Heightness:

Here, we have:

- Close
- half-close / mid-close
- half-open / mid-open
- Open

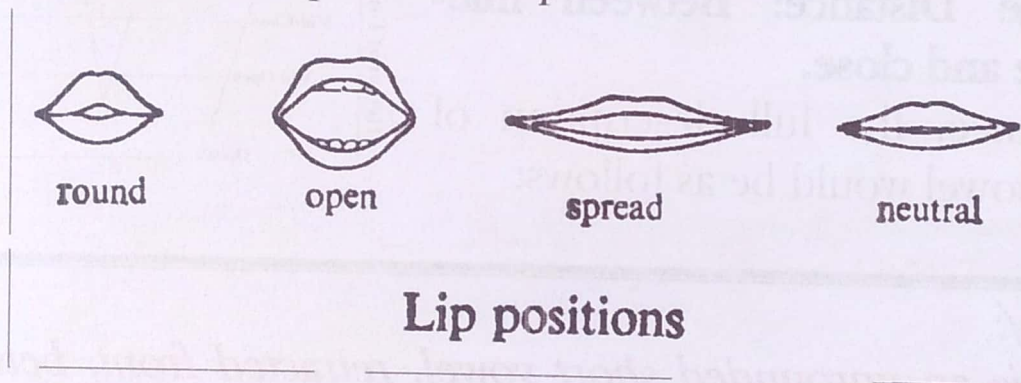
2. The Backness (The Part of the Tongue):

We need to mention which part of the tongue we are using in pronouncing the vowels:

- Front
- Centre
- Back

3. The Roundness (the Shape of the Lips):

We have four shapes of the lips:



- Spread lips.
- Neutral/natural lips.
- Open lip-rounding.
- Rounded lips.

Now, we are going to describe each vowel depending on these three criteria. We will use the chart that we mentioned last week.

/i:/

Now, let us start with the first sound, which is /i:/.

Definition:

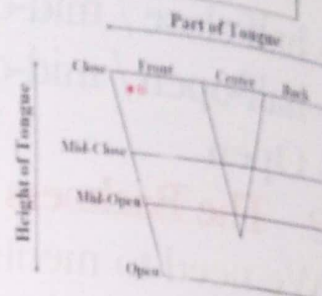
Tongue position: nearly fully front, nearly close

Lip position: slightly spread lips.

(unrounded long vowel)

/i:/ It is an unrounded long vowel, nearly fully front, nearly close, and pronounced with slightly spread lips.

Of course, it is an unrounded vowel.



/ɪ/

Now, let us move to the description of the short /ɪ/:

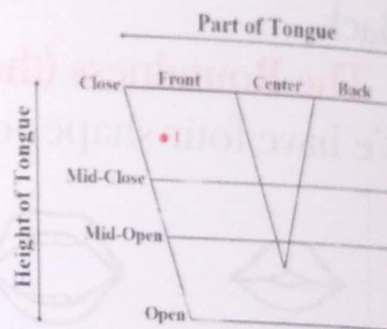
Shape of Lips: Slightly spread Lips.

The part of the tongue:

Retracted front متراجع.

The Distance: Between mid-close and close.

Hence, the full description of the vowel would be as follows:



/ɪ/:

It is an unrounded short vowel, retracted front, between close and mid-close, pronounced with slightly spread lips.

This is an unrounded vowel as well.

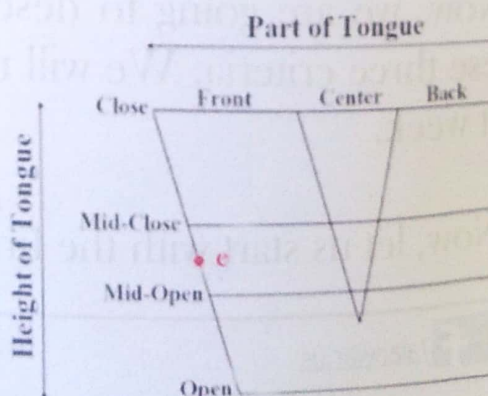
Examples of /ɪ/ are (hit, pin, pit, will).

/e/

The part of the tongue:
Fully front.

The Distance: Between half-close and half-open.

Shape of Lips: Neutrally



spread Lips.

So, the full description of the vowel would be as follows:

/e/: It is an unrounded short vowel, fully front, between half-close and half-open, pronounced with neutral lips.

Examples of /e/ are (bed, help, mess, men).

/æ/

Now, let us describe the vowel /æ/.

The part of the tongue: Nearly fully front.

The Distance: between half-open and open.

Shape of Lips: Neutrally open lips.

So, the full description of the vowel would be as follows:

/æ/: It is an unrounded short vowel, nearly fully front, between half-open and open, pronounced with neutrally open lips.

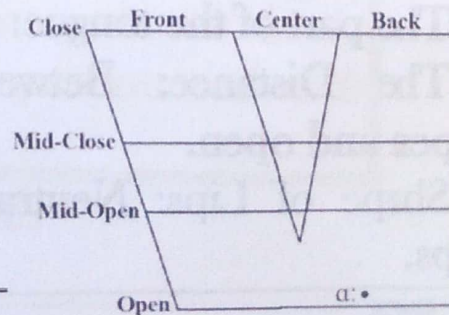
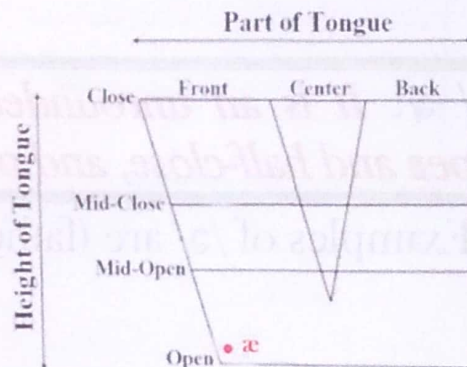
Examples of /æ/ are (apple, fan, hat, man).

/ɑ:/

The part of the tongue: back.

The Distance: fully open.

Shape of Lips: Neutrally open lips.



/ɑ:/: It is a long vowel, back, fully open, and pronounced with neutrally open lips.

Examples of /ɑ:/ are (star, art, hard, calm, half).

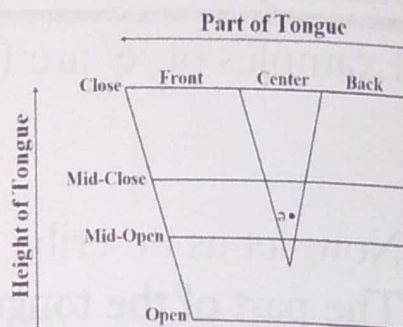
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/ə/

The part of the tongue: back.

The Distance: between half-open and half-close.

Shape of Lips: Neutral lips.



/ɜ:/: It is an unrounded short vowel, between half-open and half-close, and pronounced with neutral lips.

Examples of /ɜ:/ are (father, alive, similar).

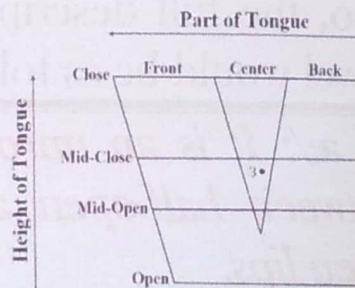
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/ɜ:/:

The part of the tongue: back.

The Distance: between half-open and half-close.

Shape of Lips: Neutral lips.



/ɜ:/: It is an unrounded long vowel, between half-open and half-close, and pronounced with neutral lips.

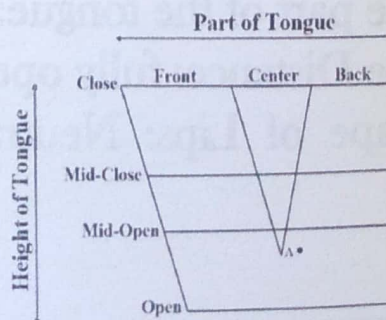
Examples of /ɜ:/ are (bird, earn, herd).

/ʌ/

The part of the tongue: Center.

The Distance: Between half-open and open.

Shape of Lips: Neutrally open lips.



***/ʌ/:* It is an unrounded short vowel, between half-open and open, pronounced with neutrally open lips.**

An example of /ʌ/ is (hut).

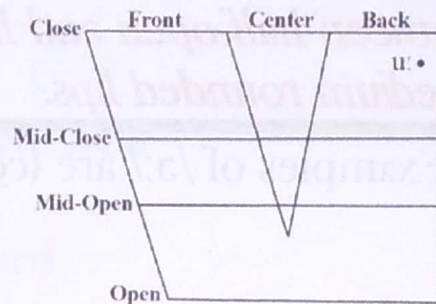
We still have four vowels, and all of them are produced from the back.

/u:/

The part of the tongue:
Nearly fully back.

The Distance: Nearly close.

Shape of Lips: closely rounded lips.



***/u:/:* It is a rounded long vowel, nearly fully back, nearly close, and pronounced with closely rounded lips.**

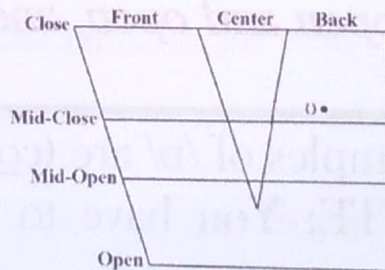
Examples of /u:/ are (food, moon, spoon).

/ʊ/

The part of the tongue:
Advanced back.

The Distance: Between close and half-close.

Shape of Lips: closely but loosely rounded lips.



***/ʊ/:* It is a rounded short vowel, advanced back, between close and mid-close, and pronounced with closely but loosely rounded lips.**

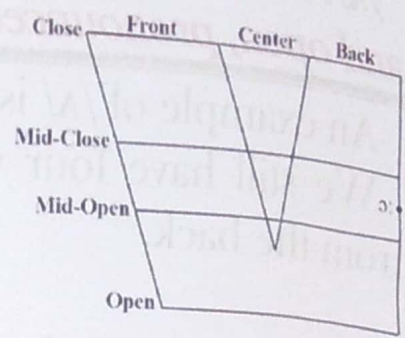
Examples of /ʊ/ are (foot, put, coold).

/ɔ:/

The part of the tongue: **Nearly fully back.**

The Distance: **Between half-open and half-close.**

Shape of Lips: **medium rounded lips.**



/ɔ:/ It is a rounded long vowel, nearly fully back, between half-open and half-close, and pronounced with medium rounded lips.

Examples of /ɔ:/ are (cold, horse, old, board).

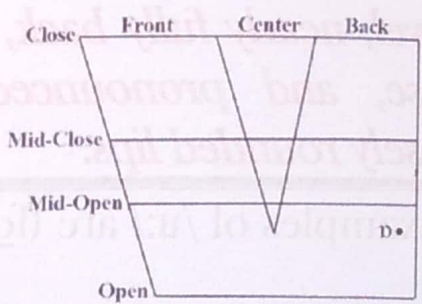
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/ɒ/

The part of the tongue: **Nearly fully back.**

The Distance: **Between mid-open and open.**

Shape of Lips: **slightly rounded lips.**



/ɒ/ It is a rounded short vowel, nearly fully back, between mid-open and open, and pronounced with slightly rounded lips.

Examples of /ɒ/ are (cot, long, pond).

NOTE: You have to memorize the description of each vowel.

Now, let us practice the pronunciation of these vowels.

/i:/

First practice:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Eat | Free |
| Each | Tree |

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| East | Knee |
| Ease | Three |
| Heap | Bee, B, be |
| Heat | Glee |
| Heave | Chief |
| Leave | Grief |
| Clean | Thief |
| Seat | Eve |
| Neat | People |
| Zeal | Heal, heel, he'll |
| Breathe | Meat, meet, mete |
| Yeast | Peal, peel |
| Mean | Knead, need |
| Tea | Leak, leek |
| Eel | Steal, steel |
| Keep | Weak, week |
| Feed | Flea, flee |
| Weed | Key, quay |

* * *

What is the transcription of the word 'tea'?

Student: /ti:/

Instructor: Ok. What is the transcription of the word 'three'?

Student: /θri:/

Instructor: Ok. What is the transcription of the word 'sad'?

Student: /sæd/

Instructor: Ok. What is the transcription of the word 'bird'?

Student: /bɜ:d/

Instructor: Ok. What is the transcription of the word 'eel'?

Student: /i:l/

Instructor: Ok. What is the transcription of the word 'mix'?

Student: /mɪks/

Instructor: Ok. What is the transcription of the word 'kick'?

Student: /kɪk/

Instructor: Ok. What is the transcription of the word 'art'?

Student: /ɑ:t/

Instructor: Ok. What is the transcription of the word 'art'?

Student: /ɑ:t/

Instructor: Ok. What is the transcription of the word 'health'?

Student: /helθ/

Instructor: Ok. What is the transcription of the word 'treasure'?

Student: /trezə/

Instructor: Ok. What is the transcription of the word 'treasure'?

Student: /trezə/

Instructor: Ok. What is the transcription of the word 'false'?

Student: /fɒls/

Instructor: Ok.

That's all for today.

Thank You!

