

Sounds, Symbols & Intonation

A. Sounds & Symbols

1) I.P.A. for English (British English, RP = Received Pronunciation)

Consonant sounds			Short sounds	Long sounds	Diphthongs
p pet	b bad	h how	ɪ hit	i: see	əʊ nose
t tea	d did	m man	ʊ put	u: blue	aʊ now
k cat	g give	n no	æ cat	ɑ: arm	eɪ ray
f find	v voice	ŋ <u>si</u> ng	ʌ cup		aɪ five
θ think	ð this	r red	ɒ hot	ɔ: call	ɔɪ boy
s sun	z zoo	l leg	ə <u>a</u> way	ɜ: turn	ɪə near
ʃ she	ʒ pleasure	w wet	e met		eə where
tʃ check	dʒ just	j yes			ʊə pure

2) VOWEL SOUNDS: complete this table

1. / / Doctor, <u>col</u> lect, <u>vanilla</u> , <u>another</u>	<p>DIPHTONGS</p> <p>13. / / Home, no, road, toe, though, show, low,</p> <p>14. / / Fear, dear, fierce, idea, here</p> <p>15. / / House, cow, town, allow, bough, thou,</p> <p>16. / / Care, fair, bear, there, dare</p> <p>17. / / Tour, cure, endure, dual</p> <p>TRIPHTONGS</p> <p>18. hour: / /</p> <p>19. player: / /</p> <p>20. tyre: / /</p> <p>21. lower: / /</p> <p>22. employer: / /</p>
2. / / Dog, what, cough, want, shone	
3. / / Bird, word, third, earn	
4. / / tree, beat, seize, piece	
5. / / Horse, door, lawn, bought, talk,	
6. / / Class, part, <u>a</u> fter, heart, laugh, dark	
7. / / Pen, head, says, friend, <u>lea</u> ther	
8. / / Bad, sat, sad, plait, <u>exa</u> m	
9. / / Wolf, book, look, <u>w</u> oman, could	
10. / / lit, <u>s</u> ymbol, <u>En</u> gland, build, women	
11. / / Spoon, move, group, boot	
12. / / Some, come, blood, does, cut, glove, <u>o</u> ther	

3) The Alphabet – You surely know the alphabet, but how well can you pronounce all the letters? Put the letters in the right column, according to the pronunciation of the vowel.

1 /eɪ/	2 /i:/	3 /e/	4 /aɪ/	5 /əʊ/	6 /u:/	7 /ɑ:/

4) Vowel phonemes - Chase the odd man out:

	Main vowel sound	Odd man out
Low – no – show – <u>all</u> ow – throw		
How – law – now – cow – shout		
Fault – nought – wrote – fought – door		
Lean – niece – feed – <u>lea</u> ther – teeth		
Tool – shoot – crook – blue - <u>ballo</u> on		
Fire – hire – <u>reti</u> re – Yorkshire – higher		

Now, write your own line of 5 words on the same pattern:

FUN WITH PHONETICS



mother

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| suggest | although | strangers |
| soldier | saxophone | dangers |
| jacket | postman | enters |
| fridge | follow | revenge |

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| nature | heart | elephant | gives |
| fetch | tomato | eleven | zero |
| question | calmer | golf | apples |
| children | marching | hopeful | those |



son

The names of the four people in this family are hidden in the words next to the pictures. Find the common sound in each list of words. Then join these sounds together to find the name.



daughter

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ocean | reading | castle | America |
| shop | complete | battle | psychology |
| sugar | seventeen | arrival | water |
| fishing | pieces | pills | kitchen |

- | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| autumn | apples | eighth | university | teaspoon |
| combing | parrot | thought | future | juicy |
| comfortable | expand | through | yellow | movement |
| handsome | backache | tooth | newspaper | twenty-two |

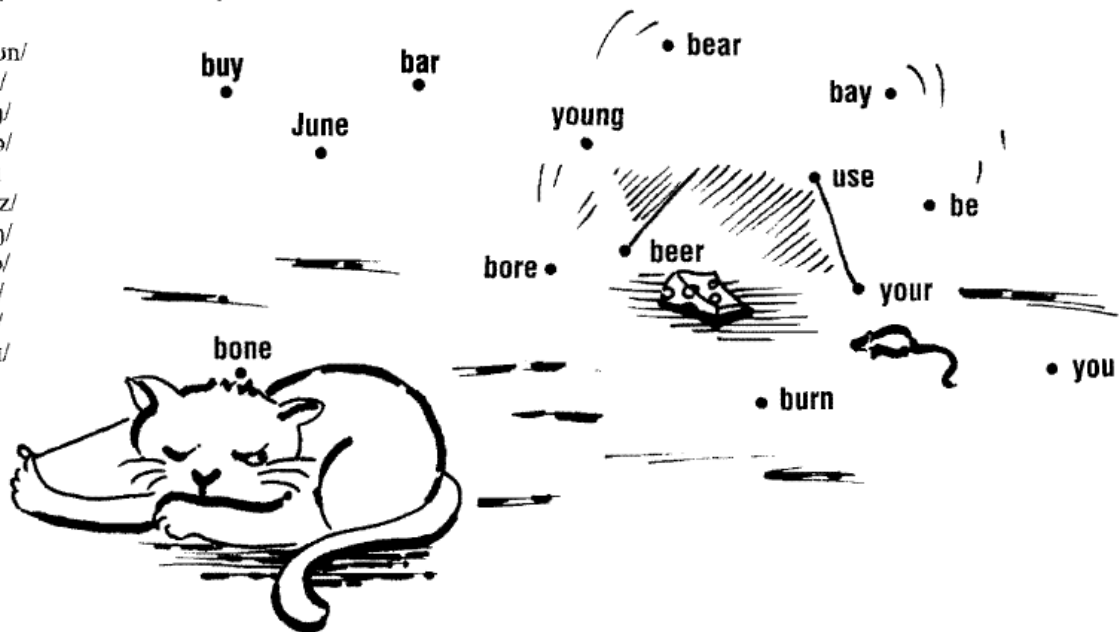


father

Puzzle 1

To find out what the cat is doing, match the phonetic transcriptions to words in the picture. Then join the dots by these words in the same order as the list of phonetic transcriptions. Some dots may be used twice.

- 1 /bəʊn/
- 2 /bɔ:/
- 3 /jʌŋ/
- 4 /beə/
- 5 /beɪ
- 6 /ju:z/
- 7 /jʌŋ/
- 8 /brɛə/
- 9 /jɔ:/
- 10 /bi:/
- 11 /bet/



B. Intonation

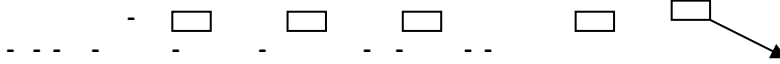
1. Cas général: Intonation descendante

Dans les phrases déclaratives (affirmatives et négatives), impératives et dans les questions en Wh- (phrase 1), la voix marque une chute à partir de la dernière syllabe accentuée, cette chute indiquant la fin de la phrase.

1) Who called you?



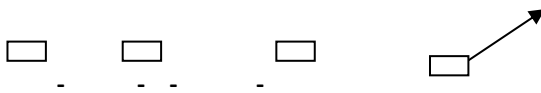
2) This is a campaign against the whole pharmaceutical industry.



2. Cas particulier : Intonation montante

Dans les questions fermées (Yes-No questions) et les demandes de confirmation, la voix marque une montée à partir de la dernière syllabe accentuée.

3) Have the company's staff been threatened?

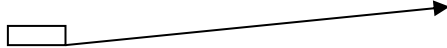


4) Could the campaign seriously hurt medical research?



6) A: "Tom Lay said measures had to be taken."

B: "Who said measures had to be taken?"



3. Accent contrastif ou focus

Le locuteur a toujours la possibilité d'accentuer plus particulièrement un terme dans le but de l'opposer à un autre, exprimé ou sous-entendu.

7) Some British activists criticized the Secretary's speech.

8) Some **British** activists criticized the Secretary's speech (not **American** ones).

9) Some British activists **criticized** the Secretary's speech (they did not **praise** it).

10) Some British activists criticized the **Secretary's** speech (not the **Prime Minister's**).