

Phonetics & Presentation:

Session 6: Starting of IPA – Vowel 1

Session 7:

Nasal Consonants & Pure Vowels

/i:/, /i:/, /ʊ/, /u:/, /ɒ/, /ɔ:/

Here are the English Phonemes [44]:

Vowels				diphthongs										
i:	I	ʊ	u:	Iə	eɪ									
feed	igloo	cook	boots	beard	hay									
e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ	əʊ								
egg	love	bird	sport	picture	toy	boat								
æ	ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ								
apple	umbrella	car	octopus	chair	pie	cow								
				consonants										
p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g							
pig	banana	tiger	dog	cheese	jam	cat	girl							
f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ							
fish	violin	math	this	sun	zebra	fish	vision							
m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j							
monkey	nose	sing	horse	lion	zabbit	whale	yoyo							
short sounds		long sounds		voiced consonants		unvoiced consonants								

The 44 unique phonemes

ARTICULATION OF /ɪ/ & /i:/

High Front Vowels

Vowel: Produced with an open vocal tract, without significant constriction.

Front: The front of the tongue is raised toward the hard palate. **High:** The jaw is relatively closed, and the tongue is raised high. **/ɪ/ (Short, Lax):** Slightly lower, retracted, and has less muscular tension. **/i:/ (Long, Tense):** High and forward, with more muscular tension.

/ɪ/ - Short Front Articulation (Lax)

Tongue Position

Jaw relatively closed but slightly more open than /i:/.

Back of tongue low and flat.

Front of tongue high but slightly lower than /i:/.

Retracted tongue tip.

Lax, slightly more open vocal tract.

Vocal cords are **CLOSED** (vibrate) - (Shorter duration).



How to feel /ɪ/ Laxness:

Place your finger (or the back of your hand) near your lower front teeth. You will feel less tension in your tongue and it's slightly lower.

Examples: sit /sɪt/, chip /tʃɪp/, bit /bɪt/

/i:/ - Long Front Articulation (Tense)

Resonance Pattern

Broad Frontal Resonance.

Tense, forward tongue.

Full mouth & throat resonance chamber.

Strong vocal tract vibration - (Longer duration).



How to feel /i:/ Buzz:

Place your palm in front of your mouth. You will feel a sustained, broad front-mouth buzz and neck vibration (buzz).

Examples: seat /si:t/, cheap /tʃi:p/, beat /bi:t/

/ɪ/

it /ɪt/
fill /fɪl/
sit /sɪt/

/i:/

eat /i:t/
feel /fi:l/
seat /si:t/

/ɪ/ (Short 'i' - Lax Front)

Bangla Equivalent: None exact. Bengali ই (i) is too tense.

Difference with Bengali: Bengalis cannot hear the difference between /ɪ/ (ship) and /i:/ (sheep). For /ɪ/, keep it short and lazy.

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Extensive Examples: Sit, Ship, Bit, Hit, Chicken, England, Busy, Building, Pretty.

Exceptions: Spelled with 'u', 'y', 'e': Busy, Build, Pretty, Women (wimen).

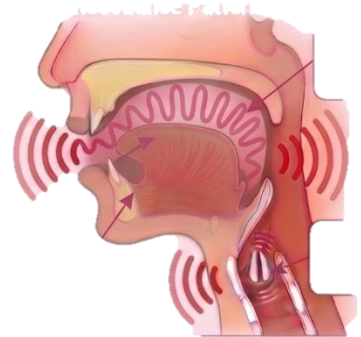
/i:/ (Long 'ee' - Close Front)

Bangla Equivalent: ই / ঐ (i/ee).

Difference with Bengali: Bengali ই is often shorter. English /i:/ must be held longer, with a wide smile.

Extensive Examples: See, Sheep, Eat, Green, Machine, Key, People, Police, Amigo.

Exceptions: Spelled with 'ey', 'ei', 'i', 'e': Key, Receive, Police, Me, He.



<u>/ɪ/</u>		<u>/i:/</u>
<u>ship</u> /ʃɪp/		<u>sheep</u> /ʃi:p/
<u>sit</u> /sɪt/		<u>seat</u> /si:t/
<u>live</u> /lɪv/		<u>leave</u> /li:v/
<u>bit</u> /bɪt/		<u>beat</u> /bi:t/
<u>fill</u> /fɪl/		<u>feel</u> /fi:l/

ARTICULATION OF /ʊ/ & /u:/

High Back Vowels

Vowel: Produced with an open vocal tract, without significant constriction.

Back: The back of the tongue is raised toward the soft palate (velum). **High:** The jaw is relatively closed, and the tongue is raised high.
/ʊ/ (Short, Lax): Back of tongue raised high, slightly forward. Lips loosely. **/u:/ (Long, Tense)** very high and back. Lips tightly rounded, forward.

/ʊ/ - Short Back Articulation (Lax)

Tongue Position

Lips loosely rounded & pushed slightly forward.

Back of tongue raised high but slightly lower than /u:/.

Front of tongue high but slightly lower than /i:/.

Tongue tip retracted.

Lax, more open back resonance chamber.

Vocal cords are **CLOSED** (vibrate) - (Shorter duration).



How to feel /ʊ/ Laxness:

Place your finger (or the back of your hand) near your lower back teeth. You will feel less tension and the tongue is slightly lower than /u:/.

Examples: foot /fʊt/, wood /wʊd/, should /ʃʊd/

/u:/ - Long Back Articulation (Tense)

Resonance Pattern

Broad Backal Resonance.

Lips tightly rounded & forward.

Full back mouth & throat resonance chamber.

Strong vocal tract vibration - (Longer duration).



How to feel /u:/ Buzz:

Place your palm in front of your mouth. You will feel a sustained, broad back-mouth buzz and neck vibration (buzz).

Examples: food /fu:d/, boot /bu:t/, soup /su:p/
 minimal pair words 'pull/pool' can be included for effect.

[ʊ]

soot /sʊt/

full /fʊl/

pull /pʊl/

[u:]

suit /su:t/

fool /fu:l/

poo /pu:/

/ʊ/ (Short 'u' - Near-Close Back)

Bangla Equivalent: None. Bengali উ (u) is too tense.

Difference with Bengali: Bengalis use উ for both /ʊ/ and /u:/. Teach them to relax the face for /ʊ/.

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Extensive Examples: Book, Look, Good, Foot, Put, Wood, Wolf, Woman, Should.

Exceptions: 'O' often makes /ʊ/ in short words: Wolf, Woman, Wood. 'Oo' makes /u:/ instead of /u:/: Book, Good, Foot, Wool. (Rule of thumb: Common, short words use /ʊ/; longer words use /u:/).

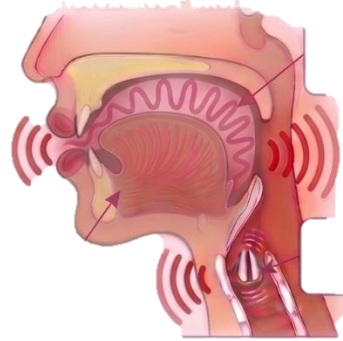
/u:/ (Long 'oo' - Close Back)

Bangla Equivalent: উ / উ (u/oo).

Difference with Bengali: Bengali উ is often a bit diphthongized (glides). English /u:/ is pure, tight, and long.

Extensive Examples: Food, Moon, Blue, Shoe, Two, Who, True, Juice, Ruler.

Exceptions: Spelled with 'ew', 'ue', 'ui', 'o': Flew, Blue, Juice, Who, Move, Lose, Tomb.



/ʊ/	/u:/
full /fʊl/	fool /fu:l/
pull /pʊl/	pool /pu:l/
look /lʊk/	Luke /lu:k/
foot /fʊt/	food /fu:d/
could /kʊd/	cooed /ku:d/

ARTICULATION OF /ɒ/ & /ɔ:/ Back Vowels

Vowel: Produced with an open vocal tract, without significant constriction.

Back: The back of the tongue is raised toward the soft palate (velum). **Low / Mid:** Refers to the relative height of the tongue body.
/ɒ/ (Short, Lax): Very open mouth, tongue back and low. **/ɔ:/ (Long, Tense):** Moderately open mouth, tongue mid-back, with tight lip rounding.

/ɒ/ - Short Open Back Articulation (Lax)

Tongue Position

Wide open mouth, jaw low.

Front of tongue low and flat.

Corners of lips may pull outwards slightly.

Back of tongue low and flat in mouth.

Open back vocal tract, lax muscles.

Vocal cords are **CLOSED** (vibrate) - (Shorter duration).



How to feel /ɒ/ Laxness:

Place your finger (or back of hand) near your lower back teeth. You will feel your tongue low and less tension than for /ɔ:/.

Examples: pot /pɒt/, cot /kɒt/, watch /wɒtʃ/

/ɔ:/ - Long Mid Back Articulation (Tense)

Resonance Pattern

Broad Frontal Resonance (from Back Chamber).

Tight, rounded lips pushed forward.

Full, large back mouth & throat resonance chamber.

Full, large back mouth & throat resonance chamber.

Strong vocal tract vibration - (Longer duration).



How to feel /ɔ:/ Buzz:

Place your palm in front of your mouth. You will feel a sustained, broad buzz and neck vibration (buzz).

Examples: port /pɔ:t/, caught /kɔ:t/, water /'wɔ:tər/
 minimal pair 'cot/caught' can be highlighted for effect

[ɒ]

rot /rɒt/
 stock /stɒk/
 fond /fɒnd/

[ɔ:]

wrought /rɔ:t/
 stalk /stɔ:k/
 fawned /fɔ:nd/

/ɒ/ (Short 'o' - Open Back)

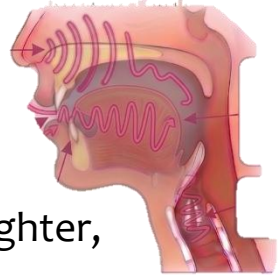
- Bangla Equivalent:** Closest to অ (o) but shorter.
- Difference with Bengali:** Bengalis often use the long ও (o) or আ (a). Keep it short and punchy.

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- Extensive Examples:** Hot, Pot, Dog, Box, Stop, Watch, Want, Wash, Because.
- Exceptions:** 'W' before 'a' often makes /ɒ/: Was, Want, Wash, Swan, Wallet.

/ɔ:/ (Long 'or' - Open-Mid Back)



- Bangla Equivalent:** None exact. Similar to ও (o) but with tighter, rounded lips.
- Difference with Bengali:** Bengalis don't round their lips for ও. For /ɔ:/, push lips out like blowing a horn.
- Extensive Examples:** Door, More, Law, Saw, Thought, Board, Walk, Autumn, Daughter.
- Exceptions:** Spelled with 'a' before 'l', 'll', 'lk': All, Ball, Tall, Wall, Walk, Talk. Spelled with 'au', 'aw': August, Draw, Law.

/ɒ/	/ɔ:/
cot /kɒt/	caught /kɔ:t/
not /nɒt/	naught /nɔ:t/
stock /stɒk/	stalk /stɔ:k/
lock /lɒk/	lork /lɔ:k/
Don /dɒn/	dawn /dɔ:n/

ARTICULATION OF /e/ & /æ/

Front Vowels

Vowel: Produced with an open vocal tract, without significant constriction.

Front: The front of the tongue is raised toward the hard palate. **Low / Mid:** Refers to the height of the tongue body relative to the roof of the mouth.

/e/ (Mid-Front, Lax): Jaw is mid-open, and the front of the tongue is at a medium height. significantly, and the front of the tongue is very low and flat.

/e/ - Mid Front Articulation (Lax)

Tongue Position

Front of tongue raised to mid-height.

Jaw relatively mid-open.

Medium-sized oral resonance chamber.

Open vocal tract, lax muscles.

Open vocal tract, lax muscles.

Vocal cords are **CLOSED** (vibrate).



How to feel /e/ Tongue:

Place your finger (or back of hand) near your lower teeth. You will feel your tongue raised but not touching them.

Examples: bed /bed/, head /hed/, red /red/

/æ/ - Low Front Articulation (Lax)

Resonance Pattern

Broad Frontal Resonance.

Large oral & throat resonance chamber.

Jaw fully dropped, mouth wide open.

Strong vocal tract vibration.



How to feel /æ/ Buzz:

Place your palm in front of your mouth. You will feel a broad, strong front-mouth buzz and neck vibration (buzz).

Examples: bat /bæt/, hat /hæt/, cat /kæt/
minimal pair 'bed/bad' is highlighted for effect

/e/ - Insight

/e/ (Short 'e' - Mid Front)

Bangla Equivalent: এ (e).

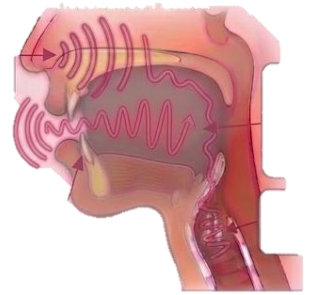
Difference with Bengali: Keep it very short. "Bed" should not sound like "Bay-d".

Extensive Examples: Bed, Red, Head, Pen, Ten, Weather, Lemon, Friend.

Exceptions: 'Ea' sometimes makes /e/ instead of /i:/: Bread, Dead, Heavy, Sweat, Breakfast.

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/æ/ - Insight

/æ/ (Short 'a' - Open Front)

Bangla Equivalent: Closest to আ, but lower and wider.

Difference with Bengali: Bengalis often replace this with এ (e). "Bat" sounds like "Bet". Drop the jaw more!

Extensive Examples: Cat, Bat, Map, Apple, Happy, Black, Stand, Saturday.

/æ/	/e/
bad /bæd/	bed /bed/
bat /bæt/	bet /bet/
man /mæn/	men /men/
pan /pæn/	pen /pen/
sad /sæd/	said /sed/

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Tongue Twisters for Daily Practice:

1. /i:/ vs /i/: Six silly sheep sink swiftly in the sea.

Six thick thistle sticks. Six sleek swans swam swiftly seawards.

Better Vowel Twister:

"She sells sea shells by the sea shore."

(Focus on /i:/ in she/sea vs /e/ in sells).

2. /æ/ and /e/:
Seven mad cats sat on a red bed and ate bad eggs.
3. /ʊ/ and /u:/:
Look at the cool blue moon in the good wood.

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