

Phonetics & Presentation:

Session 8: Starting of IPA – Vowel 2

Session 8:

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

The 44 unique phonemes



ARTICULATION OF /ə/ – /ɜ:/

VOWEL SOUNDS – VOICE ON, AIR FLOW CONTINUOUS



- Vowels are produced with an **OPEN** vocal tract.
- No complete closure – air flows smoothly with **voice**.

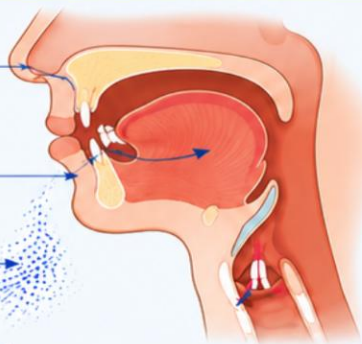


/ə/ – SCHWA (as in “about”)

Tongue is **relaxed** and in the central position.

Tongue height is **mid**.

Lips are **neutral**.



Air flows freely with **voice**.

Length: SHORT
(Brief sound)



How to feel /ə/

Relax your mouth.
Keep your tongue in the middle.
Say it like a soft “uh”.

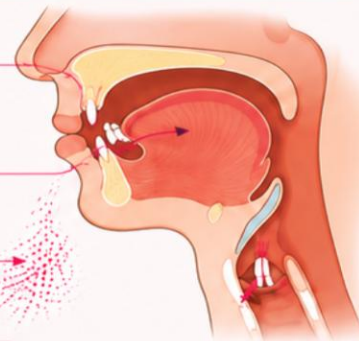
Examples: about /ə'baʊt/, sofa /'səʊfə/,
ago /ə'gəʊ/, support /sə'pɔ:t/

/ɜ:/ – ER (as in “bird”)

Tongue is pulled back and slightly raised.

Tongue height is **mid-high**.

Lips are natural or slightly spread.



Air flows freely with **voice**.

Length: LONG
(Held longer)



How to feel /ɜ:/

Pull your tongue back.
Lift the middle of your tongue.
Say it like the “er” in “bird”.

Examples: bird /bɜ:d/, word /wɜ:d/,
nurse /nɜ:s/, first /fɜ:st/

KEY COMPARISON – /ə/ vs /ɜ:/

Feature	/ə/ (Schwa)	/ɜ:/ (Er)	How to Remember	
Tongue Position	Central	Pulled back		Central vs Back
Tongue Height	Mid	Mid-high		Lower vs Higher
Lip Position	Neutral	Natural / Spread		Less open vs More natural
Length	Short	Long		Short vs Long
Example Word	sofa	bird		
Feeling	Relaxed “uh”	Pulled-back “er”		Relaxed vs Pulled back



ARTICULATION OF /ʌ/ – /ɑ:/

VOWEL SOUNDS – VOICE ON, AIR FLOW CONTINUOUS



- Vowels are produced with an **OPEN** vocal tract.
- No complete closure – air flows smoothly with **voice**.



/ʌ/ – SHORT “UH” (as in “cup”)

Tongue is **low** and **central**.

Tongue height is **low**.

Lips are slightly **open**.



Air flows freely with **voice**.

Length: SHORT
(Brief sound)



How to feel /ʌ/

Open your mouth a little.
Keep your tongue low.
Say it like a short “uh”.

Examples: cup /kʌp/, sun /sʌn/,
love /lʌv/, lunch /lʌntʃ/

/ɑ:/ – LONG “AH” (as in “father”)

Tongue is **low** and **pulled back**.

Tongue height is **low**.

Lips are more **open**.



Air flows freely with **voice**.

Length: LONG
(Held longer)



How to feel /ɑ:/

Open your mouth wide.
Keep your tongue low and pulled back.
Say it like “ah” in “father”.

Examples: car /kɑ:(r)/, father /ˈfɑ:ðə(r)/,
arm /ɑ:m/, heart /hɑ:t/

KEY COMPARISON – /ʌ/ vs /ɑ:/

Feature	/ʌ/ (Short “uh”)	/ɑ:/ (Long “ah”)	How to Remember
Tongue Position	Low & central	Low & pulled back	Same Low, Different Place
Tongue Height	Low	Low	
Lip Opening	Slightly open	More open	/ɑ:/ opens more wide
Length	Short (brief)	Long (held)	Short vs Long
Example Word	cup	car	Short vs Wide
Feeling	Short “uh”	Wide “ah”	

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Then introduce /ə/ as the weak vowel

/ə/ Schwa

Contrast

about /ə'baʊt/

first syllable = weak /ə/

ago /ə'gəʊ/

first syllable = weak /ə/

around /ə'raʊnd/

first syllable = weak /ə/

above /ə'bʌv/

first syllable = weak /ə/

alone /ə'ləʊn/

first syllable = weak /ə/

support /sə'pɔ:t/

first syllable = weak /ə/

banana /bə'nɑ:nə/

first + final syllables = /ə/

teacher /'ti:tʃə/

final syllable = /ə/

doctor /'dɒktə/

final syllable = /ə/

mother /'mʌðə/

final syllable = /ə/

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The three stressed vowels

/ʌ/

bud /bʌd/

cut /kʌt/

luck /lʌk/

bun /bʌn/

cub /kʌb/

hut /hʌt/

duck /dʌk/

muck /mʌk/

puck /pʌk/

luck /lʌk/

/ɜ:/

bird /bɜ:d/

curt /kɜ:t/

lurk /lɜ:k/

burn /bɜ:n/

curb /kɜ:b/

hurt /hɜ:t/

dirk /dɜ:k/

murk /mɜ:k/

perk /pɜ:k/

lur k /lɜ:k/

/ɑ:/

bard /bɑ:d/

cart /kɑ:t/

lark /lɑ:k/

barn /bɑ:n/

carb /kɑ:b/

heart /hɑ:t/

dark /dɑ:k/

mark /mɑ:k/

park /pɑ:k/

lark /lɑ:k/

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All Combo Practice

Word	Pronun.	Word	Pronun.	Word	Pronun.	Word	Pronun.
About	/ə'baʊt/	Bud	/bʌd/	Bird	/bɜ:d/	Bard	/bɑ:d/
Comma	/'kɒmə/	Cut	/kʌt/	Curt	/kɜ:t/	Cart	/kɑ:t/
Sofa	/'səʊfə/	Cud	/kʌd/	Curd	/kɜ:d/	Card	/kɑ:d/
Parrot	/'pærət/	Puck	/pʌk/	Perk	/pɜ:k/	Park	/pɑ:k/
Baron	/'bærən/	Bun	/bʌn/	Burn	/bɜ:n/	Barn	/bɑ:n/
Picture	/'pɪktʃə/	Hut	/hʌt/	Hurt	/hɜ:t/	Heart	/hɑ:t/
Teacher	/'ti:tʃə/	Tuck	/tʌk/	Turk	/tɜ:k/	Tart	/tɑ:k/
Madder	/'mædə/	Much	/mʌtʃ/	Merge	/mɜ:dʒ/	March	/mɑ:dʒ/
Sugar	/'ʃʊgə/	Stun	/stʌn/	Stir	/stɜ:/	Star	/stɑ:/
Liar	/'laɪə/	Fun	/fʌn/	Firm	/fɜ:m/	Farm	/fɑ:m/

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Practice Time :

1. Practice with /ə/ (The Lazy Schwa) Rule:

Do not roll the 'r' in "teacher" or "doctor".

Do not say "a-bowt"; say "uh-bowt". Make the bold parts lazy and quick.

- The about to agree with the doctor.
- A teacher from America bought a camera for a dollar.
- The sofa in the arena was covered in sugar.

2. Practice with /ʌ/ (Short 'u') Rule:

Keep it short and punchy.

Do not say "cot" for "cut" or "barner" for "burner".

Drop the jaw slightly.

- My cousin loves a cup of hot butter.
- The sun was up, but it was not much fun in the mud.
- An uncle cut the bun and stuffed it in his pocket.

3. Practice with /ɜ:/ (Long 'er') Rule:

BENGALI TRAP! Do NOT roll the 'r'.

Tongue must be flat, lips slightly pushed forward.

Hold the sound.

- The early bird learned a new word.
- The nurse turned and saw the purple turtle.
- Her third shirt was dirty from work at the church.

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4. Practice with /a:/ (Long 'ah') Rule:

Drop the jaw fully.

In British English, the 'r' at the end is completely silent.

- The car was parked in the dark yard.
- My father asked for a glass of water after art class.
- He laughed hard when the calf ate the half of the palm tree.

All in One Practice:

"An unlucky artist agreed to draw a *bird* on a CARDBOARD CART. He STARTed his work after sunrise. He HURT his thumb, but a *nurse* from across the PARK came to help. 'Are you alright?' she ASKED. 'A little painful, but I can WALK,' he answered. After LUNCH, he drank a cup of water and watched the *bird* fly away."

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