

HOW TO MAKE SPEECH SOUNDS

Sound	As In	Other Spellings	Code	Mouth Position
k	kitchen	cup kick Chris	un s	Same as /c/ above
l	leg		v c	Tongue tip touches just behind the upper teeth. Air comes out along the side(s) of the tongue.
m	man		v n c	Lips together. It is made with the same lip position as /b/ and /p/, but /b/ and /p/ are stops.
n	neck	knock gnaw	v n c	Lips and teeth are slightly parted. Tongue tip touching roof of mouth just behind upper teeth. Lower surface of tongue shows. Tongue touches the gum ridge with position like /t/ and /d/, but /t/ and /d/ are stops.
p	pan		un s	Stop air with lips together; open with big puff of breath. Unvoiced equivalent of /b/.
qu	quarter		un	Teach as /kw/. Lips rounded like oo as in room.
r	river	wrap	v c	Tongue tip down. Lips forward and almost squared. Round lips before voicing.
s	snake	cent city bicycle	un c	Teeth close but not touching. Tongue tip down. Unvoiced equivalent of /z/.
t	tent		un s	Lips and teeth slightly parted. Stop air with tongue tip up touching roof of mouth just behind upper teeth. Lower surface of tongue shows. Tongue is dropped as breath is expelled. Unvoiced equivalent of /f/.
v	valley		v c	Lower lip touching upper teeth lightly. Voiced equivalent of /f/.
w	woman		v c	Lips forward and rounded, with “one-finger” opening, as with oo in room.
x	box	looks kicks	un	Teach as /ks/.
y	yells		v c	Lips drawn back, teeth close together, as with /ee/.
z	zipper	his teaches	v c	Teeth close but not touching. Tongue tip down. Voiced equivalent of /s/.
ch	children	kitchen	un	A combination of /t/ and /sh/. Lips forward. Start with tongue tip up; lower as breath is expelled. Unvoiced equivalent of /j/. A consonant digraph.

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ng	ring		v n c	Tongue tip down behind lower teeth. Hump or arch tongue. Nasal equivalent of /k/ or /g/. A consonant digraph.
sh	shop	Chicago	un c	Lips forward and squared. Teeth close but not touching. Tongue down. Tongue has wider groove than in /s/ sound. Unvoiced equivalent of /zh/ as in <i>measure</i> . A consonant digraph.
s	measure	television	v c	/zh/. Voiced equivalent of /sh/.
th	the		v c	Tongue touches both upper and lower teeth. Voiced equivalent of /th/ below. A consonant digraph.
th	thanks		un c	Tongue touches both upper and lower teeth. Unvoiced equivalent of /th/ above. A consonant digraph.
wh	whistle		un c	Teach as /hw/. A consonant digraph.

Short Vowel Sounds

Sound	As In	Other Spellings	Code	Mouth Position
a	apple		v c	Wide jaw opening. Tongue down.
e	Ed	head	v c	Lips and teeth slightly closer together than for /a/.
i	in	city	v c	Lips and teeth slightly closer together than for /e/.
o	olive		v c	Wide jaw opening. Prolong the sound.
u	up		v c	Medium jaw opening. Relaxed lips. Prolong slightly.

Long Vowel Sounds

Sound	As In	Other Spellings	Code	Mouth Position
a	ate	paint day	v c	Teeth about a half inch apart. Hold twice as long as long e. Tongue down.
e	three	paper eat we key Pete	v c	Lips drawn back, teeth close together. Hold twice as long as long i.

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i	five	night spy tie	v c	Jaw wide apart at start, then move to a narrower opening.
o	nose	I boat snow	v c	Lips forward and rounded, with a “two finger wide” opening.
u	use	go pupil few argue	v c	Teach as /ee/ plus oo as in <i>room</i> .

Other Vowel Sounds

Sound	As In	Other Spellings	Code	Mouth Position
a	all	awn Paul caught bought	v c	Lips forward, wide jaw opening. A “three finger” opening.
ar	arms		v c	Teach according to person’s local pronunciation.
oi	oil	boy	v c	Combination of /aw/ and /i/. Start with lips forward for /aw/, then draw back for /i/.
oo	food	June blue chew	v c	Lips forward and rounded, with a “one finger” opening. Prolong sound.
oo	book	would	v c	Lips forward, almost squared.
or	horn	floor more	v c	Lips forward with a “three finger wide” opening.
ou	out	town	v c	Combination of /o/ plus oo as in <i>room</i> . Start with wide jaw opening, move lips forward with a small opening.
ur	burn	her girl	v c	Tongue tip down. Lips forward, almost squared, more relaxed than for /r/.

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Sound Formations Chart

