

The vowels of Standard Southern British English with examples

Vowels	Standard Lexical Sets	Minimal pairs	Further examples
ɪ	KIT	pit	ship, milk, spirit, living, mirror, myth, build, women
ɛ	DRESS	pet	step, rent, best, dead end, terror, bread, said, friend
ɑ	TRAP	pat	bad, black, sand, ant, flat, marry, hashtag, Batman
ʌ	STRUT	putt	gun, rum, unjust, shut up, hurry, love, touch, blood
ɔ	LOT/CLOTH	pot	box, shop, nonstop, hotspot, sorry, what, want, wash
ʊ	FOOT	put	full, pull, bull, push, bush, courier, book, good, could
ɪ:	NEAR	beard	fear, clear, appear, dear, beer, here, weird, hero, serious
ɛ:	SQUARE	bared	share, hair, bear, where, wear, Mary, scary, area, Hungarian
ɑ:	START/PALM/BATH	bard	far, car, card, party, calm, spa, ask, dance, pass, answer
ə:	NURSE	bird	hurt, church, fur, verb, Serb, girl, first, fir, learn, word
ɔ:	NORTH/THOUGHT/FORCE	board	or, form, war, taught, all, autumn, floor, four, court
	CURE		sure, poor, your, tourist, fury, during, curious, Europe
ɪj	FLEECE	feel	see, be, agree, seat, need, these, cheese, brief, leave
	HAPPY		copy, pretty, sunny, any, coffee, movie, storey, money
ɛj	FACE	fail	day, name, tape, change, waste, April, wait, eight
ɑj	PRICE	file	hi, try, ride, kind, child, sight, type, buy, isle, height
oj	CHOICE	foil	boy, oink, coin, noise, avoid, poison, employ, annoying
aw	MOUTH	foul	cow, crowd, out, noun, count, round, south, flower
əw	GOAT	foal	so, toe, soap, road, know, low, note, stone, host, most, local
ʊw	GOOSE	fool	two, soon, food, moon, move, group, fruit, rude, cube, few
ə	COMMA/LETTER	potato	visa, panda, sofa, actor, paper, sugar, standard, Oxford