

BBN–ANG–242 Phonology

2. Diphthongs in SSBE; phonetics of vowels;
/a/ vs. /ɛ/, /əw/ vs. /o:/'

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The dictionary recommended for the course

CUBE (Current British English):

a phonetically up-to-date free online pronunciation dictionary

The link to the dictionary:

<http://seas3.elte.hu/cube/>

A short tutorial:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Tcrv8lgLbk

Previously on BBN-ANG-242 Phonology...

The short vowels of SSBE

Gimsonian (traditional)	CUBE (updated)	Standard Lexical Set
ɪ	ɪ	KIT
e	ɛ	DRESS
æ	a	TRAP
ʌ	ʌ	STRUT
ɒ	ɔ	LOT/CLOTH
ʊ	ʊ	FOOT

... *and now*

The diphthongs of SSBE

Gimsonian (traditional)	CUBE (updated)	Standard Lexical Set
i:	ɪj	FLEECE
ɪ		HAPPY
eɪ	ɛj	FACE
aɪ	ɑj	PRICE
ɔɪ	oj	CHOICE
aʊ	aw	MOUTH
oʊ/əʊ	əw	GOAT
u:	ʊw	GOOSE

Practice

Transcribe the following English words containing diphthongs.

countdown

avoidable

throw

believing

threw

surprised

briefly

Wednesday

driveway

household

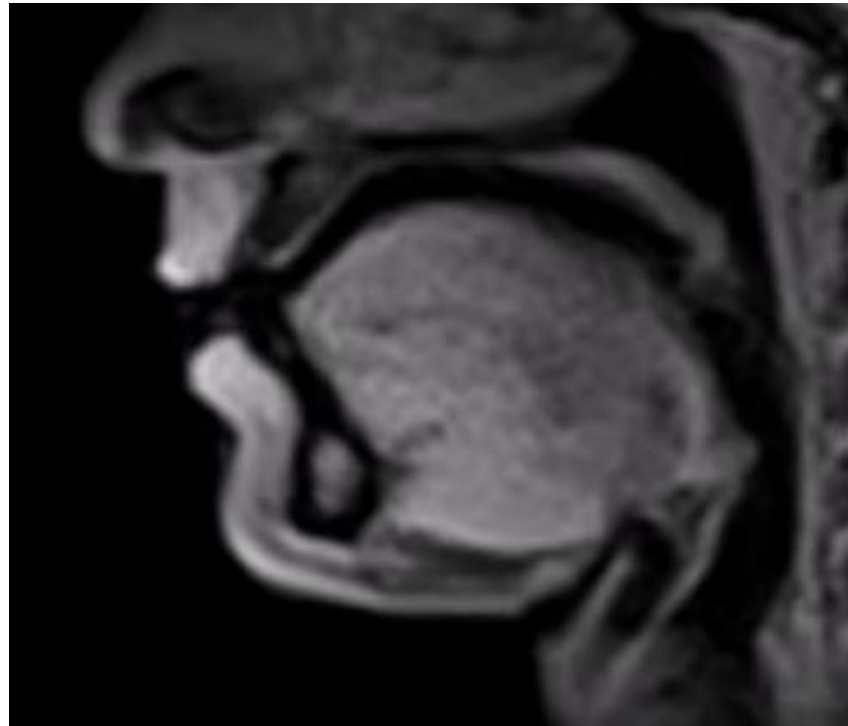
joint

Bluetooth

The articulation of vowels

What it looks like...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uT0hDqhCKQs>



THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (revised to 2015)

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

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	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ		
Trill	ʙ			r					ʀ		
Tap or Flap		ⱱ		ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

Symbols to the right in a cell are voiced, to the left are voiceless. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

CONSONANTS (NON-PULMONIC)

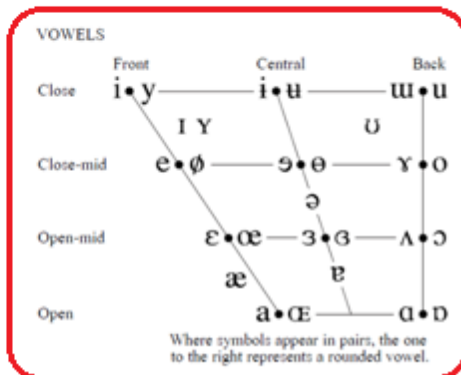
Clicks	Voiced implosives	Ejectives
Ʉ Bilabial	ɓ Bilabial	ʼ Examples:
ɠ Dental	ɗ Dental/alveolar	p' Bilabial
ǀ (Post)alveolar	ɟ Palatal	t' Dental/alveolar
ǃ Palatoalveolar	ɡ Velar	k' Velar
ǂ Alveolar lateral	ɠ Uvular	s' Alveolar fricative

OTHER SYMBOLS

ɱ Voiceless labial-velar fricative	ɕ ʑ Alveolo-palatal fricatives
ɰ Voiced labial-velar approximant	ɺ Voiced alveolar lateral flap
ɥ Voiced labial-palatal approximant	ɥ̟ Simultaneous ɥ and X
ħ Voiceless epiglottal fricative	
ʕ Voiced epiglottal fricative	Affricates and double articulations can be represented by two symbols joined by a tie bar if necessary.
ʡ Epiglottal plosive	

DIACRITICS Some diacritics may be placed above a symbol with a descender, e.g. **ɲ̰**

̥ Voiceless	̦ Breathy voiced	̧ Dental	̨ Apical
̩ Voiced	̪ Creaky voiced	̫ Alveolar	̬ Laminar
̭ Aspirated	̮ Linguolabial	̯ Laminar	̰ More rounded
̱ More rounded	̲ Labialized	̳ Nasalized	̴ Less rounded
̵ Less rounded	̶ Palatalized	̷ Nasal release	̸ Advanced
̹ Advanced	̺ Velarized	̻ Lateral release	̼ Retracted
̽ Retracted	̾ Pharyngealized	̿ No audible release	̀ Centralized
́ Centralized	̽ Velarized or pharyngealized	̿	̂ Mid-centralized
̃ Mid-centralized	̄ Raised	̅ (ɹ̄ = voiced alveolar fricative)	̆ Syllabic
̇ Syllabic	̈ Lowered	̉ (β̈ = voiced bilabial approximant)	̊ Non-syllabic
̋ Non-syllabic	̌ Advanced Tongue Root	̍	̎ Rhoticity
̏ Rhoticity	̐ Retracted Tongue Root	̑	



SUPRASEGMENTALS

- ˈ Primary stress
- ˌ Secondary stress
- ː Long
- ˑ Half-long
- ˚ Extra-short
- ˘ Minor (foot) group
- ˗ Major (intonation) group
- Syllable break
- ◌◌◌ Linking (absence of a break)

TONES AND WORD ACCENTS

- | LEVEL | CONTOUR |
|--------|----------------------------|
| ē or ˥ | ˥ or ˩ Rising |
| é | ˥ Falling |
| ē | ˥ High rising |
| è | ˥ Low rising |
| ē̄ | ˥ Extra low rising-falling |
| ˩ | ˩ Downstep |
| ˩ | ˩ Global rise |
| ˩ | ˩ Global fall |

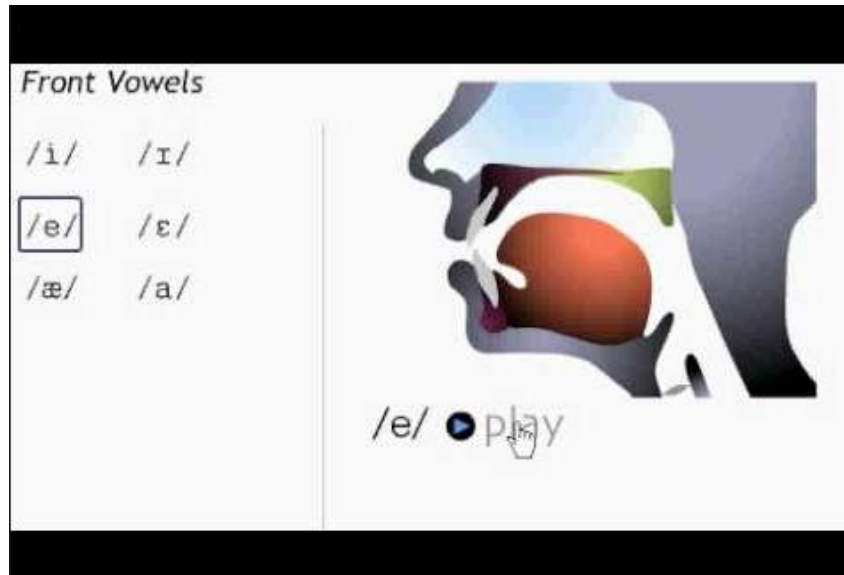
... and the theoretical part

Charts downloadable from:
https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/sites/default/files/IPA_Kiel_2015.pdf

With audio recording:
<https://web.uvic.ca/ling/resources/ipa/charts/IPA1ab/IPA1ab.htm>

Vowels

Place of articulation



To see the movements of the tongue during the articulation of English vowels, go to

<http://soundsofspeech.uiowa.edu/index.html#english>

Vowels

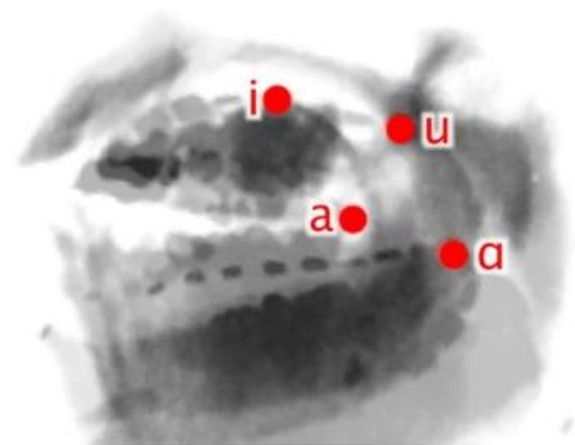
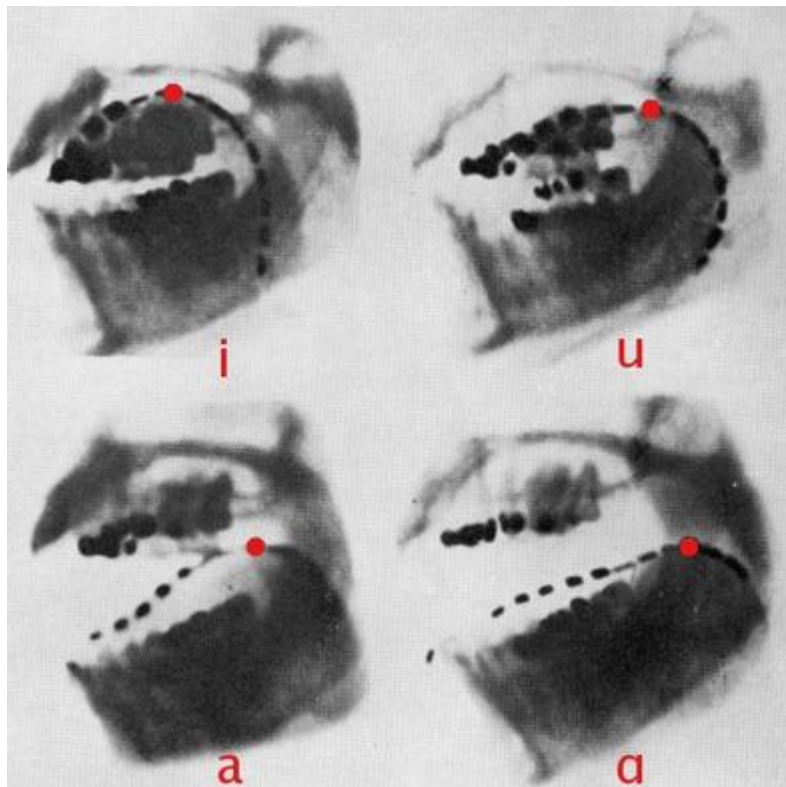
Place of articulation



Daniel Jones (1881–1967)

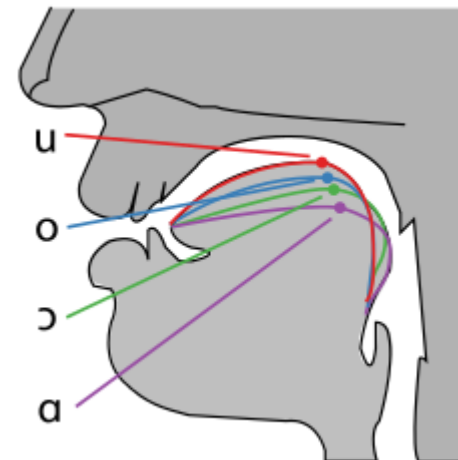
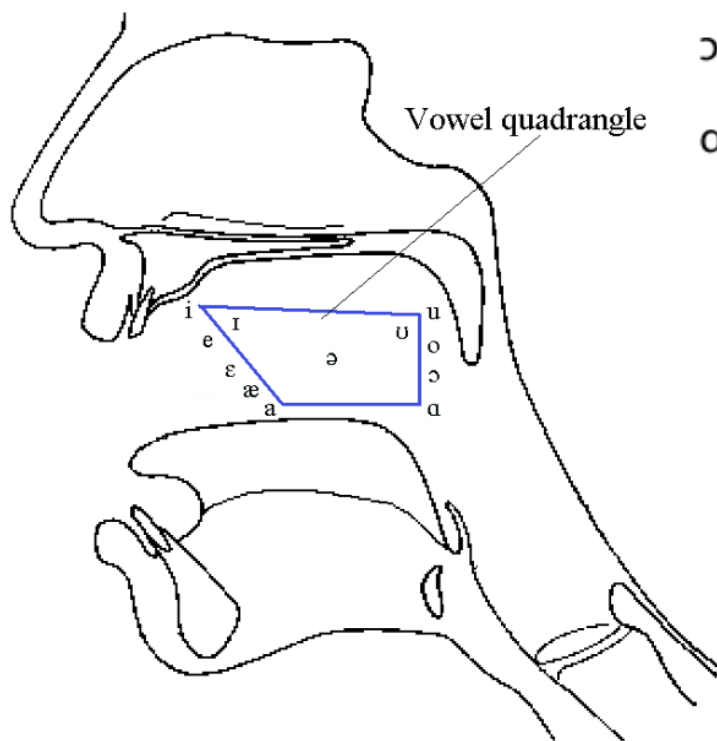
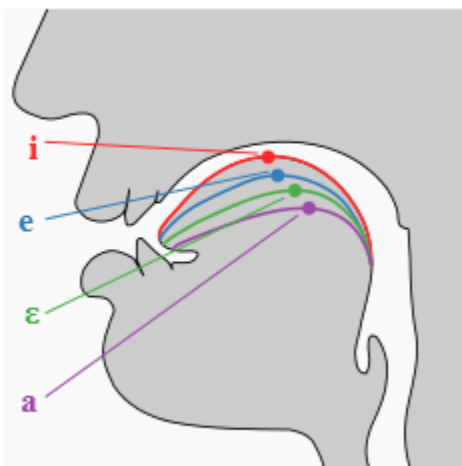
Vowels

Place of articulation

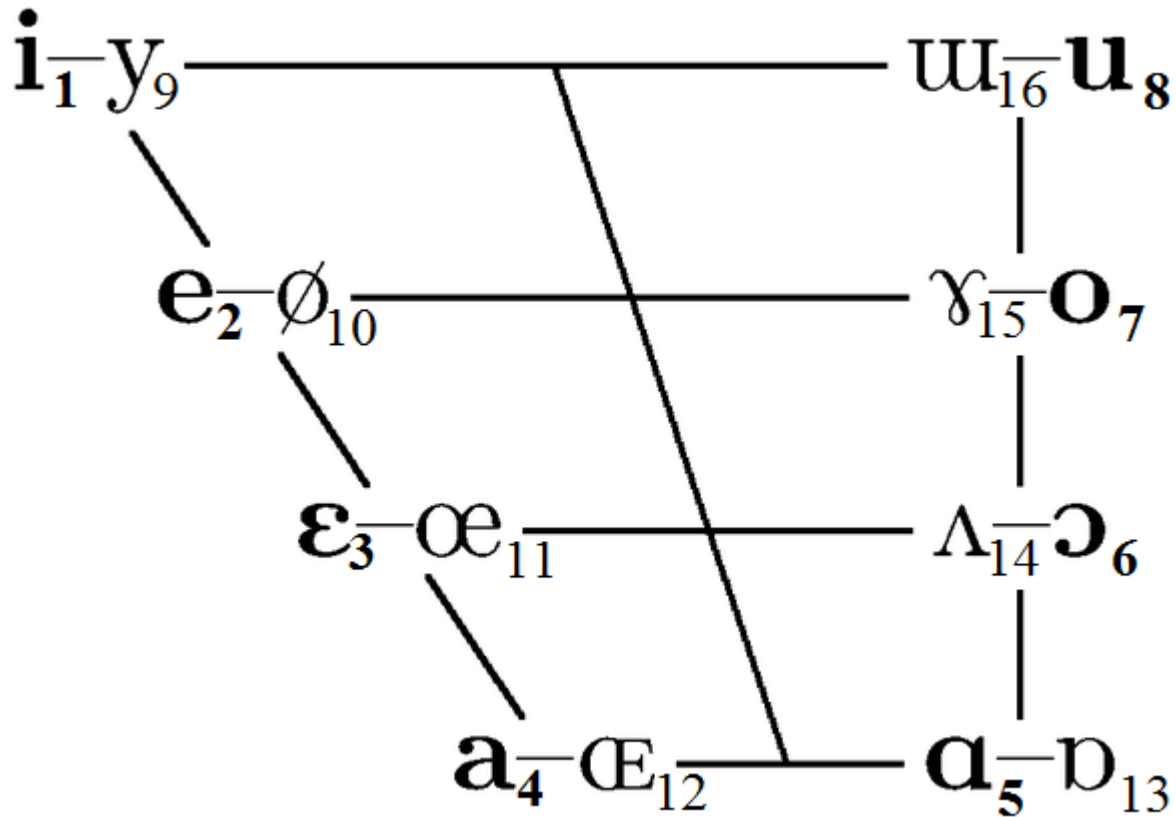


Vowels

Place of articulation



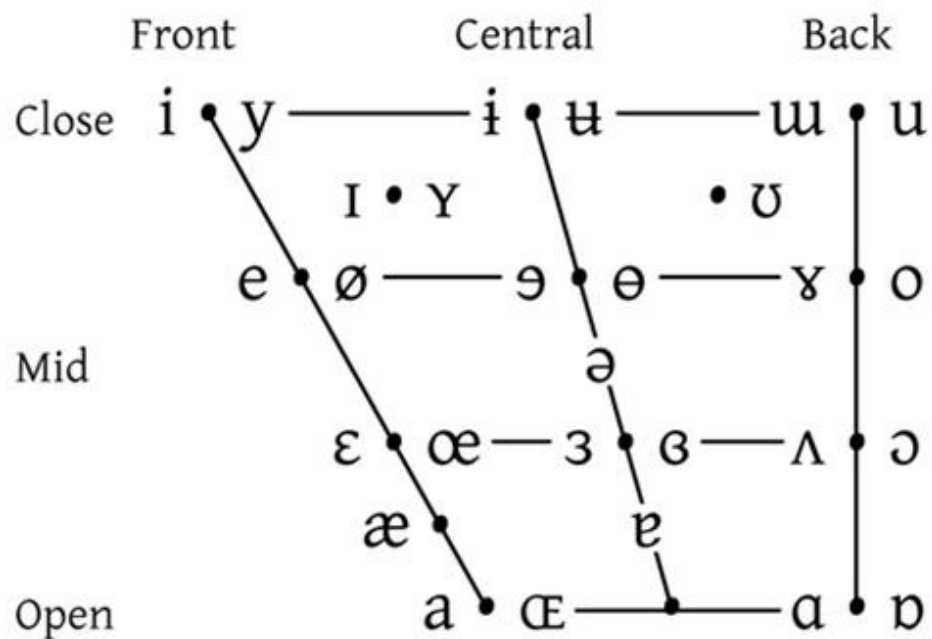
Vowels



Primary (1–8) and secondary (9–16) cardinal vowels

Vowels

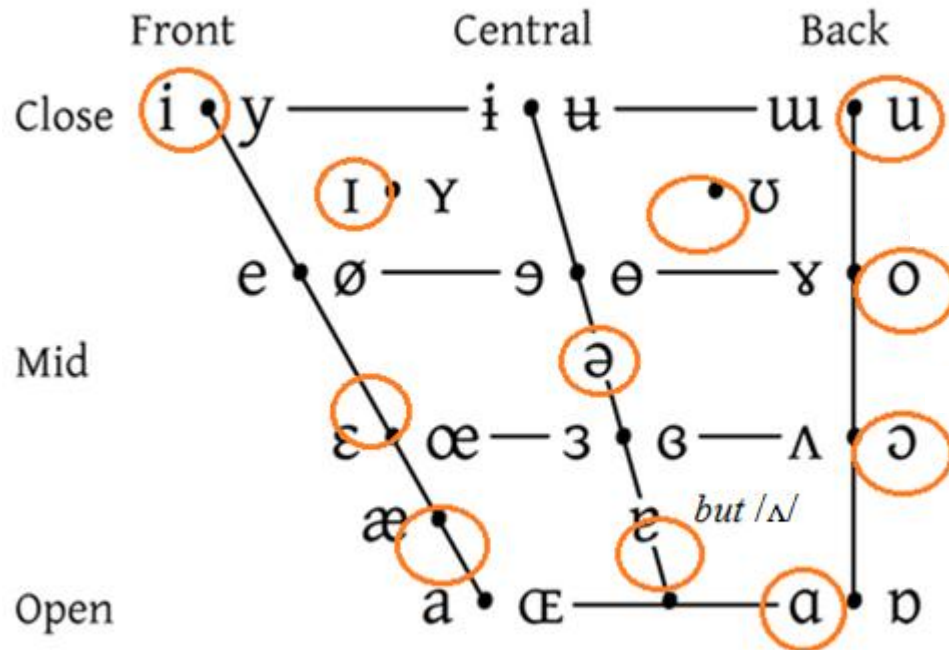
VOWELS



Vowels at right & left of bullets are rounded & unrounded.

The vowels of SSBE

VOWELS



Vowels at right & left of bullets are rounded & unrounded.
 SSBE monophthongs in the IPA vowel space

The vowels of SSBE

	front	central	back
high	(j)		(w)
high-mid	ɪ	ʉ	o
low-mid	ɛ	ə	ɔ
low	a	ʌ	ɑ

■ unrounded

■ rounded

Vowel contrasts

Pronunciation practice
/a/ or /ɛ/?

head

sad

neck

said

then

bed

bad

that

than

Pronunciation practice

/a/ or /ɛ/?

head

sad

neck

said

then

bed

bad

that

than

/a/ or /ɛ/?

Note:

/a/ is always spelled with a single **a**¹;
whereas **/ɛ/**, most of the time, with **e** or **ea**².

¹ The only instances of **a** standing for **/ɛ/** are *any* /éniɟ/, *many* /ménɟ/, *Thames* /témz/ and *ate* /ét/.

² Examples of less frequent spelling of **/ɛ/**: *said*, *says*, *leisure*, *leopard*, *friend*, etc.

Pronunciation practice

/əw/ or /o:/?

thought

note

horse

story

go

cold

fall

daughter

soap

more

low

law

local

war

Pronunciation practice

/əw/ or /o:/?

thought

note

horse

story

go

cold

fall

daughter

soap

more

low

law

local

war

/əw/ or /o:/?

Spelling	Pronunciation	
	not before <r>	before <r>
<p style="text-align: center;">o =</p> <p style="text-align: center;">oa =</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ou, ow =</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">/əw/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">note, local</p> <p style="text-align: center;">soap</p> <p style="text-align: center;">soul, blow</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">/o:/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">more, form, story</p> <p style="text-align: center;">board</p> <p style="text-align: center;">source</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">a =</p> <p style="text-align: center;">au, aw =</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">/o:/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">hall, salt, talk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">sauce, caught, law</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">/o:/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">war, quarter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">aura, dinosaur</p>

When the spelling is (or begins with) **a**, we pronounce /o:/.

When the spelling is (or begins with) **o**, we pronounce /əw/*.

However, if the next letter is **r**, and in the case of **ough**, we pronounce /o:/.

* Exception: (a)*broad* / (ə)*bró:d*/.

Terms to check

vowel (*magánhangzó*)

place of articulation (*képzés helye*)

short vowel (*rövid magánhangzó*)

vs. **long vowel** (*hosszú magánhangzó*)

monophthong (*monoftongus, egyelemű magánhangzó*)

vs. **diphthong** (*diftongus, kettőshangzó*)

vs. **triphthong** (*triftongus, hármashangzó*)

primary and secondary cardinal vowels (*elsődleges és másodlagos kardinális magánhangzók*)

front vowel (*elülső magánhangzó*)

vs. **central vowel** (*centrális / középső magánhangzó*)

vs. **back vowel** (*hátsó magánhangzó*)

close/high vowel (*zárt / felső nyelvéllású magánhangzó*)

vs. **mid vowel** (*középső nyelvéllású magánhangzó*)

vs. **open/low vowel** (*nyílt / alsó nyelvéllású magánhangzó*)

Recommended reading

- **Pronouncing vowels**
(<http://seas3.elte.hu/phono/notes/141-vowels.html>)
- **The vowels of English: Short vowels; Diphthongs**
(<http://seas3.elte.hu/phono/notes/141-V-system.html>)