

Pronunciation of the Sounds in the English Language

This is just a rough guide on pronunciation of the vowels and consonants.

Please refer to "Mr Thorne does phonics" on You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/user/breakthruChris> for visual pronunciation.

Consonants: Consonants are pronounced with some type of obstruction to the airflow, some are voiced and some voiceless, some are short and some are long		
b	bat	short voiced sound, pronounced as the lips close and burst open
c	cat	short unvoiced sound, pronounced in middle of tongue
d	duck	short voiced sound, pronounced at the tip of the tongue
f	favourite	long unvoiced sound pronounced with upper teeth sitting on inside of lower lip and air squeezing between teeth
g	gulp	short voiced sound pronounced at the back of the throat
h	hop	long unvoiced release of breath through an unobstructed throat and mouth
j	jump	short voiced sound pronounced at the front of the tongue
k	king	short unvoiced sound, pronounced in the middle of the tongue (see c)
l	ladder	long voiced sound produced by raising the front of the tongue to sit on the palate, and air travels around the sides of it
m	monster	long voiced sound, produced by air flowing through the nose
n	nose	long voiced sound, the tongue sits on the palate and the mouth is ajar but the air flows through the nose and not mouth
ng	song	long voiced sound, produced at the back of the tongue – as if swallowing the sound
p	penguin	short unvoiced sound, produced as the lips close and burst open
qu	queen	2 sounds /cw/
r	rainbow	long voiced sound, lips protruding forward and partially pursed, pronounced towards the back of the mouth, air flowing between tongue and palate
s	Sammy snake	long unvoiced sound, front of tongue is on palate and air hisses between tongue and palate
t	teddy	short unvoiced sound, produced at the tip of the tongue
v	vest	long voiced sound, pronounced with upper teeth sitting on inside of lower lip and air squeezing between teeth
w	wobble	voiced sound produced with tightly pursed lips, that needs to merge into the following vowel for full pronunciation
x	box	2 sounds both unvoiced - /ks/
y	yo-yo	voiced sound produced with slightly protruding lips and sides of tongue raised to the palate, it needs to merge into the following vowel for full pronunciation
z	zip	long voiced sound, front of tongue is on palate and air hisses between tongue and palate
ch	chase	short unvoiced sound pronounced at the front of the tongue
sh	shiver	long unvoiced sound, middle of tongue is on palate and air hisses between tongue and palate
th	them	long voiced sound, slightly curled tongue touching upper teeth
th	thumb	long unvoiced sound, slightly curled tongue touching upper teeth
zj	treasure	long voiced sound, middle of tongue is on palate and air hisses between tongue and palate

Vowels: Vowels are pronounced with an open airway, minimal obstruction to airflow, and they are all *voiced*, they can have a long or short sound

primary spelling	word	description of how to pronounce the vowel
a	apple	wide open mouth as if taking a bite of an apple
e	egg	open smiling mouth, pronounced at front of mouth
i	ink	sharp sound at the back of the throat & slightly screw up nose and raise upper lip, pronounced near front of mouth
o	orange on off	pursed lips into an 'o' shape, pronounced near back of tongue
oo	look	short voiced sound, lips slightly pursed, pronounced in the middle of the mouth
u	up	make sound in throat as if swallowing it
ay	aim	open mouth smile, pronounced mid mouth
ee	feet	smile with mouth slightly ajar, pronounced near front of tongue
igh	light	mouth dropped open, pronounced mid tongue
ow	toad	pursed lips into o-shape, pronounced mid tongue
ew	boot	outward protruding pursed lips, pronounced at back of tongue
oi	boy	lips initially pursed as in 'o', and then they open out into smile as in 'ee'
ur	turn	half dropped jaw, open airway
air	chair	half open, half smiling mouth, jaw dropped and open airway, draw mid-tongue/jaw up slightly to complete sound
ear	hear	half smile, mid tongue raised up to top of mouth to reduce air flow, then partly release tongue and smile
ar	car	mouth and tongue dropped open
or	horn	pursed lips, jaw and tongue dropped
ow	clown	open mouth and dropped jaw, lips become pursed