


Table 1 - IPA Consonant Sound System



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IPA Symbol	Key Word		Personal Key Word 	Spelling Variations
	Initial Sound	Final Sound		
/w/	why	–*		w, wh
/m/	me	am		m, mm, mn
/p/	pay	map		p, pp
/b/	bow	cab		b, bb
/f/	fee	off		f, ff, ph
/v/	veer	of		v, f
/θ/	thought	both		th
/ð/	the	other		th
/n/	new	on		n, gn, kn, nn
/l/	lay	ill		l, ll
/t/	toe	it		t, tt
/d/	do	add		d, dd
/j/	young	–*		y, u, eu, li
/s/	see	ace		s, ss, c
/z/	zoo	is		z, s, x
/ʃ/	she	ash		sh, c, ch
/ʒ/	–*	measure		z, s, ge
/tʃ/	chew	itch		ch, c, tu, tch
/dʒ/	juice	age		dg, g, d, j
/r/	ray	–*		r, w
/k/	key	ache		k, ck, ch, c, q
/g/	go	egg		g, gg
/ŋ/	–*	thing		ng, n
/h/	high	–*		h

*In English, these sounds do not occur in this position.



Note

Table 1 is the complete set of American English consonants. Sample words are given for each consonant sound, as well as the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols for each. Here's an idea to make your practice more meaningful: Why not add your own words to the Key Word column in Table 1? Make sure they are words that contain the true consonant sound.

Table 2 - A Classification System for American English Consonants



1. Place <i>Where is this sound made?</i>		2. Manner <i>How is air released for this sound?</i> FAR = Free Air Release NAR = Noisy Air Release Stop/NAR = Stop/Noisy Air Release Stop/FAR = Stop/Free Air Release			
		FAR	NAR	Stop/NAR	Stop/FAR
Front of Mouth ↑ ↓ Back of Mouth	Lips	[w] [m]			p, [b]
	Lips and teeth		f, [v] θ, [ð]		
	Tongue tip to alveolar ridge	[n], [l]	s, [z]		t, [d]
	Sides of tongue and molars	[j] [r]	ʃ, [ʒ]	tʃ, [tʃ]	
	Back of tongue and soft palate	[ŋ]			k, [g]
	No contact points	h			

3. Voicing

Can you feel any throat vibration for this sound?

The voiced sounds are in [brackets] and in color.