

Phonemes of English

Consonants

The voiceless (or unvoiced) consonants are on the left and the voiced consonants are on the right in each of the tables, below.

1. Oral stops (or plosives)

/p/	pat	/b/	bat
/t/	tin	/d/	din
/k/	cap	/g/	go

2. Affricates

/tʃ/ or /tʃ̥/	choose	/dʒ/ or /dʒ̥/	judge
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3. Fricatives

/f/	fan	/v/	van
/θ/	think	/ð/	these
/s/	so	/z/	zoo
/ʃ/	she	/ʒ/	beige
/h/	he		

4. Nasals (or nasal stops)

/m/	my
/n/	no
/ŋ/	sing

5. Approximants

/w/	we
/j/	you
/l/	leaf
/r/	run

Vowels

1. Monophthongs

Long vowels

/iː/	heed
/eɪ/	hair
/aɪ/	hard
/oɪ/	hoard, saw
/uɪ/	who'd
/ɜː/	heard

Short vowels

/ɪ/	hid
/e/	head
/æ/	had
/ʌ/	mud
/ɒ/	pod
/ʊ/	hood
/ə/	the (spoken quickly)

2. Diphthongs

/ɪə/	here	/aɪ/	tide
/eə/	air	/ɔɪ/	void
/ʊə/	tour	/əʊ/	home
/eɪ/	pain	/aʊ/	loud