

## Ling 322

### IPA symbols: English Vowels with Examples

#### Front Vowels

#### Back and central vowels

Sound (IPA)	Example (Spelling)	Sound (IPA)	Example (Spelling)
[i]	h <u>ee</u> d	[u]	wh <u>o</u> 'd    shoe    blue
[ɪ]	h <u>i</u> d	[ʊ]	h <u>oo</u> d
[e]	h <u>ay</u> ed	[o]	h <u>oe</u> d    show    road
[ɛ]	h <u>ea</u> d	[æ]	h <u>a</u> d
		[ɑ]	h <u>o</u> d    cod    father
		[ʌ]	H <u>U</u> D    cut    what

\*Note: in my idiolect, there is no difference between [ɔ] and [ɑ] in e.g. *hawed* vs *hod*, or *caught* and *cot*. (My vowel in these words is just [ɑ], and for my speech I would transcribe it that way.) Is that true of you? Boston English, for example, makes a distinction. Other test pairs: *cawed* vs. *cod*, *pawed* vs. *pod*.

#### Diphthongs, or vowels made up of two distinct vowels pronounced in sequence:

Sound	Example (Spelling)
[aʊ]	b <u>ou</u> t
[aɪ]	b <u>i</u> te
[ɔɪ]	b <u>oy</u>

The English *unstressed* vowel: "schwa"

[ə]	b <u>a</u> nana <u>a</u>
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note the vowel [ɔ] shows up as part of the transcription of *core*, *bore*, *sore* etc. — besides being in *boy*, it occurs before [ɪ] — but never by itself. (It's like [a] that way, which only shows up in diphthongs!)