

International phonetic alphabet

In various guidance documents produced for the Year 1 phonics screening check, the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) has been used to explain the pronunciation of pseudo-words in the check. The table below explains each symbol and the associated grapheme used in the check.

Consonants

Phoneme	Example
/b/	bad
/d/	dog
/ð/	this
/dʒ/	gem, jug
/f/	if, puff, photo
/g/	gum
/h/	how
/j/	yes
/k/	cat check, key, school
/l/	leg, hill
/m/	man
/n/	man
/ŋ/	sing
/θ/	both
/p/	pet
/r/	red
/s/	sit, miss, cell
/ʃ/	she, chef
/t/	tea
/tʃ/	check
/v/	vet
/w/	wet, when
/z/	zip, hens, buzz
/ʒ/	pleasure*

Vowels

Phoneme	Graphemes
/ɑ:/	father, arm
/ɒ/	hot
/æ/	cat
/aɪ/	mind, fine, pie, high
/aʊ/	out, cow
/ɛ/	hen, head[^]
/eɪ/	say, came, bait
/ɛə/	air
/əʊ/	cold, boat, cone, mould, blow
/ɪ/	hit
/ɪə/	beer*
/i:/	she, bead, see, scheme, chief
/ɔ:/	launch, raw, born
/ɔɪ/	coin, boy
/ʊ/	book[^], cup[^], could
/ʊə/	tour*
/u:/	stew, room, you, blue, brute
/ʌ/	cup[^]
/ɜ:/	fern, turn, girl
/ə/	farmer

[^] This grapheme-phoneme correspondence only applies to certain regional pronunciations

* Not included in the phonics screening check

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