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# ABC Pronunciary

American English  
Pronunciation Dictionary

Mary Gretchen Lorio  
Charles E. Beyer

Vocalis Ltd.

vowel  
contrasts

ă - e

bait - bet  
lace - less  
pain - pen  
rake - wreck  
sale - sell

ē - i

deep - dip  
feet - fit  
peel - pill  
seat - sit  
teen - tin

i - u

dill - dull  
fizz - fuzz  
knit - nut  
lick - luck  
pin - pun

o - u

box - bucks  
doll - dull  
lock - luck  
long - lung  
not - nut

ō - ū

coal - cool  
float - flute  
rode - rude  
sow - sue  
tone - tune

ă - ou

all - owl  
brawn - brown  
haul - howl  
laud - loud  
tall - towel

consonant  
contrasts

**b - p**

ban - pan  
bee - pea  
beg - peg  
bowl - pole  
buy - pie

**c - g**

cap - gap  
cave - gave  
class - glass  
cot - got  
curl - girl

**d - t**

dab - tab  
den - ten  
dip - tip  
dot - tot  
duck - tuck

**f - v**

fast - vast  
fault - vault  
ferry - very  
fine - vine  
folly - volley

**l - n**

lap - nap  
let - net  
light - night  
low - no  
lull - null

**s - z**

sap - zap  
seal - zeal  
sink - zinc  
sip - zip  
sue - zoo

## Practice Sentences

- short a (a) ..... **A**l had the **a**nswer in **M**ath class.  
medium a (ā) ..... Wanda **a**lways talks with her **A**unt.  
long a (ā) ..... **M**ay I take the **l**atest **t**rain today?  
b (b) ..... A **b**ig **b**all **b**ounced on the **b**each.  
hard c (k) ..... **C**an **C**olleen cut the **c**arrot cake?  
soft c (s) ..... The city is certainly **c**ertainly exciting!  
d (d) ..... **D**an **d**runk **d**iet soda yesterday.  
short e (e) ..... **E**very **e**gg has a **y**ellow center.  
"schwa" e (ə) ..... The forest **w**as beautiful in April.  
long e (ē) ..... We can **e**at **t**urkey and **c**heese.  
f (f) ..... **F**irst, **f**ocus on the **f**irm facts.  
hard g (g) ..... The **g**irl **g**ave the **d**og a **b**ig bone.  
soft g (j) ..... **G**eorge is a **g**enerous **g**entleman.  
h (h) ..... **H**ow **h**appy I am to **h**ave a **h**orse!  
short i (i) ..... **I**t is a bit **c**hilly during the **w**inter.  
medium i (ē) ..... Tina **s**kied in the **A**ustrian Alps.  
long i (ī) ..... I'd like to get **i**ce cream **t**onight.  
j (j) ..... **J**im took a **j**et to **J**apan in **J**anuary.  
k (k) ..... **K**en took his **k**ite to the **p**ark.  
l (l) ..... A **l**ittle **l**uck will help **L**arry a lot.  
m (m) ..... **M**y **m**other will **m**ake **l**emonade.  
n (n) ..... **N**ell is **i**n **n**eed of a **n**ew **n**urse.  
short o (o) ..... The **d**octor **g**ot a **j**ob in a **h**ospital.  
medium o (u) ..... **S**onny's **b**rother has **s**ome **o**nions.  
long o (ō) ..... The **o**nly **b**oat **g**oes at six **o**'clock.  
p (p) ..... **P**ass a **p**iece of **a**pple **p**ie, please.

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| q[u] (kw) .....         | The <b>q</b> ueen <b>q</b> uietly asked a <b>q</b> uestion.     |
| r (r) .....             | <b>R</b> ailroad trains run rapidly.                            |
| s (s) .....             | <b>S</b> nacks were sold at the <b>b</b> us <b>s</b> top.       |
| t (t) .....             | <b>T</b> ell <b>T</b> om to turn the light on.                  |
| short u (u) .....       | <b>U</b> ncle <b>G</b> us traveled to <b>R</b> ussia.           |
| medium u (ū) .....      | The <b>b</b> lue <b>l</b> agoon was truly scenic.               |
| long u (û) .....        | Is a <b>u</b> niversity education <b>v</b> aluable?             |
| v (v) .....             | <b>V</b> al was brave to visit the volcano.                     |
| w (w) .....             | The <b>w</b> eather <b>w</b> as <b>w</b> arm <b>W</b> ednesday. |
| x (ks) .....            | <b>M</b> ax was excited to visit <b>T</b> exas.                 |
| consonant y (y) ..      | Did you eat <b>y</b> ogurt <b>y</b> esterday?                   |
| short y (i) .....       | <b>S</b> ylvia's <b>s</b> ymptoms are mysterious.               |
| medium y (ē) .....      | <b>M</b> ary didn't have any candy left.                        |
| long y (ȳ) .....        | <b>M</b> y house will be built <b>b</b> y July.                 |
| z (z) .....             | <b>B</b> razilian zinnias are amazing!                          |
| ar (ār) .....           | The <b>l</b> arge <b>d</b> og started <b>b</b> arking.          |
| er / ir / ur (ər) ..... | <b>S</b> hirley burned <b>h</b> er finger.                      |
| or (or) .....           | <b>N</b> ora bought <b>o</b> ranges at the <b>s</b> tore.       |
| oi / oy (oi) .....      | The <b>b</b> oy's <b>t</b> oys were <b>n</b> oisy!              |
| ou / ow (ou) .....      | A <b>l</b> oud <b>c</b> rowd is <b>o</b> utside my house.       |
| ch (ch) .....           | I <b>c</b> hatted with the <b>C</b> hinese teacher.             |
| ph (f) .....            | <b>R</b> alph <b>p</b> honed the <b>p</b> harmacy.              |
| sh (sh) .....           | <b>S</b> he <b>w</b> ished to see the <b>s</b> how.             |
| th (th) .....           | <b>T</b> hank you for the <b>b</b> irthday gift!                |
| wh (hw) .....           | <b>W</b> hen was the <b>w</b> heel invented?                    |

### Pronunciation Key

| Sound     | Symbol   | IPA | Example       |
|-----------|----------|-----|---------------|
| short a   | <b>a</b> | æ   | <b>apple</b>  |
| medium a  | <b>ā</b> | ɑ   | <b>almond</b> |
| long a    | <b>â</b> | ei  | <b>ape</b>    |
| b         | <b>b</b> | b   | <b>bell</b>   |
| hard c    | <b>k</b> | k   | <b>corn</b>   |
| soft c    | <b>s</b> | s   | <b>city</b>   |
| d         | <b>d</b> | d   | <b>dog</b>    |
| short e   | <b>e</b> | e   | <b>egg</b>    |
| "schwa" e | <b>ə</b> | ə   | <b>eleven</b> |
| long e    | <b>ē</b> | i:  | <b>equal</b>  |
| f         | <b>f</b> | f   | <b>flag</b>   |
| hard g    | <b>g</b> | g   | <b>goat</b>   |
| soft g    | <b>j</b> | dʒ  | <b>gem</b>    |
| h         | <b>h</b> | h   | <b>house</b>  |
| short i   | <b>i</b> | i   | <b>igloo</b>  |
| medium i  | <b>ē</b> | i:  | <b>ski</b>    |
| long i    | <b>ī</b> | ai  | <b>ivy</b>    |
| j         | <b>j</b> | dʒ  | <b>jet</b>    |
| k         | <b>k</b> | k   | <b>key</b>    |
| l         | <b>l</b> | l   | <b>lemon</b>  |
| m         | <b>m</b> | m   | <b>maze</b>   |
| n         | <b>n</b> | n   | <b>nurse</b>  |
| short o   | <b>o</b> | o   | <b>opera</b>  |
| medium o  | <b>u</b> | ʌ   | <b>oven</b>   |
| long o    | <b>ō</b> | ou  | <b>ocean</b>  |