Vowels

Symbols for the Acapela American English vowels

Symbol	Word	Phonetic text	Comment
r=	corner	k O1 r n r=	
A	pot	p A1 t	
O	thought	T O1 t	
I	lit	l I1 t	
i	neat	n i1 t	
u	zoo	z u1	
V	hut	h V1 t	
U	put	p U1 t	
{	pat	p {1 t	
E	net	n E1 t	
@	allow	@ l aU1	
EI	main	m EI1 n	
AI	high	h AI1	
OI	boy	b OI1	
@U	nose	n @U1 z	
aU	pout	p aU1 t	

Consonants

Symbols for the Acapela American English consonants

Symbol	Word	Phonetic text	Comment
b	bad	b {1 d	
t	tsunami	t s u n A1 m i	
t_h	tab	t_h {1 b	aspirated t
4	better	b E1 4	r= flapped t
p	stop	s t O1 p	

p_h	pine	p_h AI1 n	aspirated p
d	date	d EI1 t	
k	scare	s k E1 r	
k_h	cone	k_h @U1 n	aspirated k
g	gag	g {1 g	
m	man	m {1 n	
n	nose	n @U1 z	
r	rose	r @U1 z	
l	let	l E1 t	
N	ring	r I1 N	
f	fat	f {1 t	
v	vote	v @U1 t	
s	sat	s {1 t	
z	zoo	z u1	
S	shin	S I1 n	
tS	chin	tS I1 n	
Z	measure	m E1 Z r=	
dZ	gin	dZ I1 n	
D	this	D I1 s	
T	thin	T I1 n	
w	wait	w EI1 t	glide
j	yacht	j A1 t	glide
h	hit	h I1 t	

Lexical stress

In words with more than one syllable, one (and normally only one) of the syllables is more prominent than the others. This is referred to as word stress, or lexical stress. Words of one syllable also have word stress when spoken in isolation, although many may lose the stress in certain contexts. For the correct pronunciation of a word, it is important to include the symbol marking the word stress.

In the phonetic transcriptions the word stress is indicated by the symbol /1/ placed directly after the stressed vowel (with no space between the vowel symbol and the stress symbol).

A secondary lexical stress can also be used. This secondary stress is indicated by the symbol

/2/ placed directly after the stressed vowel like */1/* for primary stress.

Glottal stop

A glottal stop, represented by the phonetic symbol */?/*, is a small sound which is often used to separate two words when the second word starts with a stressed vowel. This sound can be inserted in a transcription in order to improve the pronunciation.

Pause

An underscore */_/* in a phonetic transcription generates a small pause.