

## Lecture One: Introduction to the English Alphabet and Sounds

**Objectives:** By the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- recognize and name the English alphabet.
  - identify basic English sounds.
  - pronounce common letters and simple words correctly.
- Introducing letters and sounds

In writing, words are made of letters. In speech, words are made of sounds. Letters are not always the same as sounds. For example, the words *key* and *car* begin with the same sound, but the letters are different. We can see this clearly if we read the two words in phonemic symbols: /ki:/, /kɑ:/. In the examples below, word pairs have the same pronunciation but different spelling:

buy	bye	sun	son
weak	week	weigh	way
too	two	write	right

There are two kinds of sounds: consonant sounds (C) and vowel sounds (V).

### Phonetic Symbols

#### Vowels

You see	You say	You see	You say
Plane	/eɪ/	bar	/ɑ:/
Plan	/æ/	boat	/əʊ/
meet	/i:/	got	/ɒ/
met	/e/	shut	/ʌ/
wife	/aɪ/	good	/ʊ/
sit	/ɪ/	shoe	/u:/
far	/ɑ:/	shirt	/ɜ:/
point	/ɔɪ/	short	/ɔ:/
found	/aʊ/	ear	/ɪə/
pure	/jʊ/	hair	/eə/

#### Consonants

You see	You say	You see	You say
job	/b/	view	/v/
open	/p/	gate	/g/
zoo	/z/	kate	/k/
six	/s/	hair	/h/
town	/t/	wage	/w/
down	/d/	joke	/dʒ/
few	/f/	should	/ʃ/
life	/l/	cheap	/tʃ/

rate	/r/	mice	/m/
nice	/n/	then	/ð/
sing	/ŋ/	yes	/j/
thick	/θ/		

**Exercise 1:** In this story, there 12 incorrect words. The correct word is pronounced the same as the incorrect one, but the spelling is different. Correct them using words from the box.

**Son - some - meat - way - threw - pears - sent - buy - piece - road - two - week**

Last weak, I cent my sun Jamie to the shops to bye sum food. He got a peace of meet and too pairs. On the weigh home, the bag broke. The food fell onto the rode and got dirty. In the end, Jamie through the food in the bin.

**Exercise 2:** Insert the following words into the right box

Map- egg -ant -men - tin - lot -pun - red - pin -not -sun -look

/ɪ/	/ʊ/	/ɒ/	/ʌ/	/æ/	/e/

## References

-Hancock, M. (2017). English pronunciation in use: Self study and classroom use. Cambridge University Press pp.8-49

-<https://www.easyteacherworksheets.com/langarts/phonics-shortvowels.html>