

LOCUTOUR® Guide to Letters, Sounds, and Symbols

LOCUTOUR
SPELLING LABEL

CLASSIFICATION

PLACE OR ARTICULATION

IPA

SPELLED AS

EXAMPLES

Consonants

p	bilabial plosive	voiceless	lips	/p/	p, pp	pit, puppy
b	bilabial plosive	voiced	lips	/b/	b, bb	bat, ebb
t	lingua-alveolar plosive	voiceless	tongue tip + upper gum ridge	/t/	t, ed, gth, th, tt, tw	tan, tipped, tight, thyme, attic, two
d	lingua-alveolar plosive	voiced	tongue tip + upper gum ridge	/d/	d, dd, ed	dad, ladder, bagged
k	lingua-velar plosive	voiceless	back of tongue and soft palate	/k/	c, cc, ch, ck que, k	cab, occur, school, duck mosque, kit
g	lingua-velar plosive	voiced	back of tongue and soft palate	/g/	g, gg, gh, gu, gue	hug, bagged, Ghana, guy, morgue
f	labiodental fricative	voiceless	lower lip + upper teeth	/f/	f, ff, gh, ph	feet, fluff, enough, phone
v	labiodental fricative	voiced	lower lip + upper teeth	/v/	v, vv, f, ph	vet, savvy, of, Stephen
th	linguadental fricative	voiceless	tongue + teeth	/θ/	th	thin
th	linguadental fricative	voiced	tongue + teeth	/ð/	th, the	them, bathe
s	lingua-alveolar fricative	voiceless	tongue tip + upper gum ridge or tongue tip + lower gum ridge	/s/	s, ss, sc, ce, ci, cy, ps, z	sit, hiss, scenic, ace, city cycle, psychology, pizza
z	lingua-alveolar fricative	voiced	tongue tip + upper gum ridge or tongue tip + lower gum ridge	/z/	z, zz, s, ss, x, cz	Zen, buzz, is, scissors, Xerox, czar
sh	linguapalatal fricative	voiceless	tongue blade and hard palate	/ʃ/	sh, ce, ch, ci, sch, si, ss, su, ti	sheep, ocean, chef, glacier, kirsch dimension, pressure, sugar, addition
zh	linguapalatal fricative	voiced	tongue blade and hard palate	/ʒ/	si, ge, s, z, zi, j	precision, rouge, usual, azure, crozier, bijou
ch	lingua-alveolar or linguapalatal affricate	voiceless	tongue tip + the alveolar ridge plosives (t, d) combine with tongue blade	/tʃ/	ch, tch, te, ti, tu	chop, batch, righteous, digestion, sculpture
j	lingua-alveolar or linguapalatal affricate	voiced	tongue tip + the alveolar ridge plosives (t, d) combine with tongue blade	/dʒ/	dge, di, du, ge, gi, gy, j	hedge, soldier procedure, manage gin, gym, jet
l	lingua-alveolar glide	voiced	tongue tip and upper gum ridge	/l/	l, ll	lad, ball
r	linguapalatal glide	voiced	tongue blade and hard palate	/r/	r, rr, rh, wr	rat, purr, rhythmic, wrote
m	bilabial nasal	voiced	lips with air through nose	/m/	m, mm, mb, gm	mom, mommy limb, paradigm
n	lingua-alveolar nasal	voiced	tongue tip and upper gum ridge, air through nose	/n/	n, nn, gn, kn, pn	nut, inn, gnome, knot, pneumonia
ng	lingua-velar nasal	voiced	back of tongue and soft palate with air through nose	/ŋ/	ng, ngue	long, harangue
w	bilabial glide	voiced	lips rounding	/w/	w, o, u, ju	wax, one, Duane, Juarez
h	glottal fricative	voiced	space between vocal folds	/h/	h, wh, g, j	he, who, Gila Bend, Jose
wh	bilabial glide	voiceless	lips rounding	/hw/	wh	whack (can pronounce: w, wh)
y	palatal glide	voiced	lips spread, tongue high & forward then gliding to following vowel	/j/	y	yellow, yes

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Vowels						
ee	front	voiced	tongue high and forward lips spread slightly	/i/	e_e, ee, ea, ie, ei, ey eo, ae, oe, e	these, beet, heat, field, ceiling, key, people, archaeology, amoeba, recent
i	front	voiced	tongue high and forward lips spread slightly	/ɪ/	i	bit
e	front	voiced	tongue high and forward lips spread slightly	/ɛ/	e, ai, ea	egg, said, bread
ae	front	voiced	tongue high and forward lips spread, more opened	/ɛ/	a_e, ae, ay, ey, ei ai, a, au	Kate, brae, hay, hey, eight straight, native, gauge
a	front	voiced	tongue high and forward lips spread, more opened	/æ/	a	hat
u	middle	voiced	tongue flat open mouth	/ʌ/, /ə/	u, a, e, o, i	cut, above, haven, won, imitation
o	middle	voiced	tongue flat open mouth	/ɑ/	o, a, oa	pop, father, broad
au	middle	voiced	tongue flat open mouth	/ɔ/	au, augh, al	August, taught, talk
aw	middle	voiced	tongue flat open mouth	/ɔ/	aw, ough	awful, bought
oe	back	voiced	tongue is back and lips are rounded	/o/	o_e, oe, o, oa, ew, oo au, eau	broke, toe, obey, boat, sew, brooch chauffer, bureau
ou	back	voiced	tongue is back and lips are rounded	/u/	oo, u	foot, bush
oo	back	voiced	tongue is back and lips are rounded	/u/	oo, ue, ew, ou, ui, oe	boot, Sue, dew, soup, suit, shoe
ie	digraph	voiced	middle to front glide	/aɪ/	ie, e_e, uy, eigh, ai, i, igh, ei, ig	pie, eye, buy, height, aisle, climb, high, Fahrenheit, sign
ue	digraph	voiced	front to back glide	/ju/	u_e, ue, eu	cute, hue, feud
oy, oi	digraphs	voiced	back to front glide	/ɔɪ/	oy, oi	boy, oil
ow, ou	digraphs	voiced	middle to back glide	/aʊ/	ow, ou, ough	cow, out, plough
R-controlled vowels						
er, ir, ur	R-controlled vowels	voiced	front + r glide	/ɛɹ/, /əɹ/	er, ir, ur, ere, ear, or	her, fir, fur, were, earth, worth
or	R-controlled vowel	voiced	back + r glide	/ɔɹ/, /ɔr/	or, ar, oor, ore, our, oar	or, war, door, ore, four, oar
ar	R-controlled vowel	voiced	middle + r glide	/ɑɹ/	ar	car, are
our	R-controlled vowels	voiced	middle to back + r glide	/aʊɹ/	our	hour
air, eir	R-controlled vowels	voiced	front + r glide	/ɛɹ/	air, eir, are, ear, ere	fair, their, care, bear, where
eer, ere, ier, ear	R-controlled vowels	voiced	front + r glide	/ɪɹ/	eer, ere, ier, ear	deer, here, tier, ear
ire	R-controlled vowels	voiced	middle + r glide	/aɪɹ/	ire, ey, iar	fire, Meyer, friar
ure	R-controlled vowels	voiced	front to back + r glide	/ʊɹ/	ure	lure, sure
Other						
c	lingua-velar plosive	voiceless	back of tongue and soft palate	/k/	c	cat, coat, clip, cut
c	lingua-alveolar fricative	voiceless	tongue tip + upper gum ridge or tongue tip + lower gum ridge	/s/	c	city, cell, cycle
x	velar then lingua-alveolar fricative	voiceless	tongue tip + upper gum ridge or tongue tip + lower gum ridge	/ks/	x	box
x	lingua-alveolar fricative	voiced	tongue tip + upper /lower gum ridge	/z/	x	Xerox, xylophone
qu	lingua-velar plosive then a bilabial glide	voiceless	back of tongue + soft palate lips rounded	/kw/	qu	quite, quiet, quick
y	front	voiced	tongue high and forward. lips spread slightly.	/i/	ee	happy
y	digraph	voiced	middle to front glide	/aɪ/	ie	try
y	front	voiced	tongue high and forward	/ɪ/	i	gym