

# International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) Symbols

## IPA SYMBOLS FOR VOWEL SOUNDS

| IPA Symbol    | English                     | German       | Italian | French                    |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------|---------------------------|
| <b>Vowels</b> |                             |              |         |                           |
| [i]           | keen                        | Liebe        | prima   | lis                       |
| [ɪ]           | thin                        | ich          |         |                           |
| [e]           | chaos                       | Leben        | pena    | été, crier                |
| [ɛ]           | bed                         | Bett, Gäste, | tempo   | êtes, père<br>neige       |
| [æ]           | bat                         |              |         |                           |
| [a]           | task<br>(American)          |              |         | parle                     |
| [ɑ]           | father                      | Stadt        | camera  | ras, âge                  |
| [ɒ]           | hot (British)               |              |         |                           |
| [ɔ]           | soft, all                   | Sonne        | morto   | somme, joli,<br>votre     |
| [o]           | note                        | Sohn         | non     | beaux,<br>pauvre,<br>gros |
| [u]           | nook                        | Mutter       |         |                           |
| [ʊ]           | gnu, fool                   | Mut          | uso     | ou                        |
| [ʌ]           | up                          |              |         |                           |
| [ə]           | (schwa)<br>ahead            | getan        |         | > demain                  |
| [y]           | (approximates [i] plus [u]) | müde         |         | une,                      |
| [ʏ]           | (approximates [ɪ] plus [ʊ]) | Glück        |         |                           |
| [ø]           | (approximates [e] plus [ɔ]) | schön        |         | peu,                      |
| [œ]           | (approximates [ɛ] plus [ɔ]) | Köpfe        |         | heure,                    |

### Vowel Sounds Peculiar to the French Language

|      |              |
|------|--------------|
| [ɑ̃] | temps        |
| [ɛ̃] | faim, vin,   |
| [ɔ̃] | nom, long    |
| [œ̃] | parfum, jeun |

## IPA SYMBOLS FOR SEMI-VOWELS (GLIDES) AND DIPHTHONGS

| IPA Symbol | English | German                | Italian     | French     |
|------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|
| [j]        | yes     | ja                    | piú, pieno  | lion, pied |
| [w]        | wish    |                       | uómo, guida | moins      |
| [ai]       | nice    | [œ] Mai, Ei           | [ai] mai    |            |
| [au]       | house   | [oo] Haus             | [ou] aura   |            |
| [ei]       | way     |                       | [ei] dovei  |            |
| [ɔi]       | boy     | [ɔø] Häuser,<br>Kreuz | [ɔi] vuoi   |            |
| [ou]       | so      |                       |             |            |

## IPA SYMBOLS FOR CONSONANT SOUNDS

Pairs of consonants, one voiced and the other unvoiced, are executed with similar tongue and lip positions.

| IPA Symbol | Voiceless            | Classification by Formation | IPA Symbol | Voiced                      |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| [p]        | pope                 | bilabial                    | [b]        | bob                         |
| [t]        | tote                 | lingua-alveolar             | [d]        | dead                        |
| [k]        | coke                 | velar                       | [g]        | glug                        |
| [f]        | fife                 | labiodental                 | [v]        | valve                       |
| [θ]        | think                | linguadental                | [ð]        | the                         |
| [s]        | cease                | dental                      | [z]        | zones                       |
| [ʃ]        | Sh!                  | lingua-alveolar             | [ʒ]        | vision                      |
| [ç]        | ich (German)         | palatal                     |            |                             |
| [x]        | ach (German)         | velar                       | [ ]        | Paris (French)              |
| [h]        | ha-ha!<br>(aspirate) | glottal                     | [ʔ]        | uh-oh! (stroked<br>glottal) |
| [tʃ]       | chase                | lingua-alveolar             | [dʒ]       | judgment                    |
| [ts]       | tsetse               | linguadental                | [dz]       | adds                        |

As just indicated, the pairs are as follows:

|           |
|-----------|
| [p]–[b]   |
| [t]–[d]   |
| [k]–[g]   |
| [f]–[v]   |
| [θ]–[ð]   |
| [s]–[z]   |
| [ʃ]–[ʒ]   |
| [ç]– [ ]  |
| [x]–[ʔ]   |
| [h]–[ʔ]   |
| [tʃ]–[dʒ] |
| [ts]–[dz] |

[ç] is generally believed to be without a voiced counterpart)

## NASAL CONSONANTS

| IPA Symbol | Classification by Formation                      |
|------------|--|
| [m]        | ma<br>no   |
| [n]        | song   |
| [ŋ]        | ogni (Italian), onion (English), agneau (French) |
| [ɱ]        | conforto (Italian)                               |

## OTHER VOICED CONSONANTS

| IPA Symbol |   |
|------------|---|
| [ʀ]        | foglia (Italian)  |
| [l̥]       | lull  |
| [ ]        | rare (retroflex r, sometimes referred to as midwestern r) |
| [r]        | very (single tap r, as in British speech)                 |
| [r̥]       | carro (Italian); Grund (German) (alveolar trill)          |

\* The symbol [r] is used in many phonetic sources to represent the alveolar rolled r because the IPA symbol for the trilled r [r̥] is used indiscriminately in many American sources.