

The Sounds of English

- A phoneme is a speech sound. It is the smallest unit of sound that distinguishes one word from another. The word phoneme is ^{1 sound - 1 letter} derived from the root *phon* (as in the word telephone), which refers to "voice" or "sound". The following pairs of words differ by only one phoneme, the first- cat/hat, men/pen.
- Since sounds cannot be written, we use letters to represent or stand for the sounds.
- A grapheme is ~~the written representation~~ ^{1 sound - 2 letters} (a letter or cluster of letters) of one sound. For example, the /b/ sound can be represented by the letter *b*; but the /sh/ can be represented by the letters *sh*.
- The word *sat* has three phonemes (/s//a//t/) and three graphemes (*s, a, t*). The word *chop* also has three phonemes (/ch//o//p/) and three graphemes (*ch, o, p*).

The 44 Sounds of English

Consonant Sounds

1.	/b/	(bat)
2.	/d/	(dog)
3.	/f/	(fan)
4.	/g/	(gate)
5.	/h/	(hat)
6.	/j/	(jump)
7.	/k/	(k)
8.	/l/	(leaf)
9.	/m/	(mop)
10.	/n/	(nest)
11.	/p/	(pig)
12.	/r/	(rock)
13.	/s/	(sun)
14.	/t/	(top)
15.	/v/	(vase)
16.	/w/	(wagon)
17.	/y/	(yo-yo)
18.	/z/	(zebra)
19.	/ch/	(cheese)
20.	/sh/	(shark)
21.	/zh/	(treasure)
22.	/th/	(thumb)
23.	/th/	(the)
24.	/hw/	(wheel)
25.	/ng/	(ring)

Vowel Sounds

26.	/a/	(cake)
27.	/e/	(feet)
28.	/i/	(bike)
29.	/o/	(boat)
30.	/yoo/	(cube)
31.	/a/	(cat)
32.	/e/	(bed)
33.	/i/	(fish)
34.	/o/	(lock)
35.	/u/	(duck)
36.	/a^/	(chair)
37.	/ə/	(alarm)
38.	/u^/	(bird)
39.	/a/	(car)
40.	/o^/	(ball)
41.	/oi/	(boy)
42.	/ou/	(house)
43.	/oo/	(moon)
44.	/oo/	(book)