

Key to the Symbols used in this book

Traditional Symbol or Name	International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)	PLA Phonetic Alphabet	Key Words
short ā	/æ/	A	<u>ask</u> , <u>thank</u>
medium ä	/a/	AH	<u>are</u> , <u>father</u>
long ā	/eɪ/	AI	<u>ate</u> , <u>make</u>
schwa a	/ə/	uh	<u>about</u> , <u>idea</u>
b	/b/	B	<u>big</u> , <u>job</u>
soft c	/s/	S	<u>city</u> , <u>dance</u>
hard c	/k/	K	<u>come</u> , <u>music</u>
ch	/tʃ/	CH	<u>child</u> , <u>much</u>
d	/d/	D	<u>do</u> , <u>need</u>
short ē	/ɛ/	E	<u>enjoy</u> , <u>best</u>
long ē	/i/	EE	<u>eat</u> , <u>we</u>
f	/f/	F	<u>for</u> , <u>if</u>
soft g	/dʒ/	J	<u>gentle</u> , <u>age</u>
hard g	/g/	G	<u>good</u> , <u>big</u>
h	/h/	H	<u>happy</u> , <u>behind</u>
short ī	/ɪ/	I	<u>if</u> , <u>with</u>
long ī	/aɪ/	AY	<u>idea</u> , <u>tie</u>
diphthong oi	/oɪ/	OY	<u>oil</u> , <u>join</u>
j	/dʒ/	J	<u>just</u> , <u>enjoy</u>
k	/k/	K	<u>keep</u> , <u>back</u>
l	/l/	L	<u>look</u> , <u>school</u>
m	/m/	M	<u>make</u> , <u>time</u>
n	/n/	N	<u>no</u> , <u>fine</u>
long n	/n/	N	<u>didn't</u> , <u>sudden</u>
ng	/ŋ/	NG	<u>length</u> , <u>sing</u>
short ö	/a/	AH	<u>on</u> , <u>stop</u>
long ö	/oʊ/	O	<u>open</u> , <u>no</u>
diphthong ou or ow	/æʊ/	OU	<u>out</u> , <u>down</u> , <u>now</u>

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schwa o	/ə/	UH	of, <u>love</u>
open ô	/ɔ/	OR	<u>or</u> , <u>store</u>
long oo	/u ^w /	OO	<u>tool</u> , <u>too</u>
short oo	/ʊ/	U	<u>book</u> , <u>good</u>
schwa oo	/ə/	UH	<u>blood</u> , <u>flood</u>
p	/p/	P	put, stop
qu	/kw/	KW	quick, square
r	/r/	R	run, car
r-controlled vowels	/r/	ER	<u>earn</u> , <u>doctor</u>
s	/s/	S	<u>so</u> , <u>yes</u>
sh	/ʃ/	SH	<u>she</u> , <u>wish</u>
s pronounced ZH	/ʒ/	ZH	television, <u>usual</u>
t	/t/	T	<u>ten</u> , <u>put</u>
soft th	/θ/	th	<u>thank</u> , <u>month</u>
hard th	/ð/	TH	<u>this</u> , <u>smooth</u>
tapped t	/t/ or /d/	D	city, <u>matter</u>
short ü	/ə/	UH	<u>up</u> , <u>run</u>
medium u	/u/	OO	<u>rule</u> , <u>true</u>
long u	/yu/	YOO	<u>U.S.</u> , <u>value</u>
v	/v/	V	<u>very</u> , <u>give</u>
w	/w/	W	<u>well</u> , <u>show</u>
x	/ks/ or /gz/	KS or GZ	<u>next</u> , <u>example</u>
short y	/y/	Y	<u>you</u> , <u>way</u>
long y	/i ^y /	EE	<u>easy</u> , <u>very</u>
z	/z/	Z	<u>zoo</u> , <u>size</u>

Note: This book focuses on mastering the most frequently used words in North American English. Therefore, not every possible pronunciation of every alphabet letter appears here. Sound-to-letter correspondences that are infrequent in everyday speech are not included.