

Chapter 4
Part 1



Phonetics
Engl 328

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Why studying vowels is more difficult than studying consonants?

- ➔ The articulators do not come into contact to produce any obstruction to the flow of air.
- ➔ Voicing is not a distinguishing feature because all vowels are voiced.
- ➔ Vowels are differentiated through differences in the size and shape of the oral cavity.

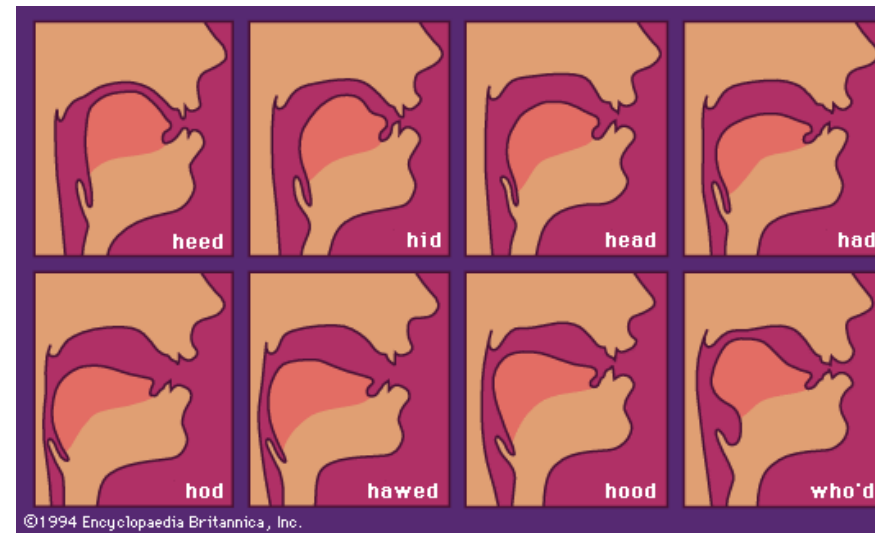
stop	p [pa]	b [ba]
	t [ta]	d [da]
	k [ka]	g [ga]
nasal	m [ma]	n [na]
	ŋ [ŋa]	
fricative	f [fa]	v [va]
	θ [θa]	ð [ða]
	s [sa]	z [za]
	ʃ [ʃa]	ʒ [ʒa]
	h [ha]	
semi vowel	w [wa]	y [ya]
	r [ra]	l [la]
affricate	tʃ [tʃa]	dʒ [dʒa]

		Point of Tongue Elevation		
		Front	Center	Back
Elevation of Tongue	High	i I		u ʊ
	Mid	e ɛ	ə ʌ	o
	Low	æ	a	ɔ ɑ

How we describe and classify English vowels

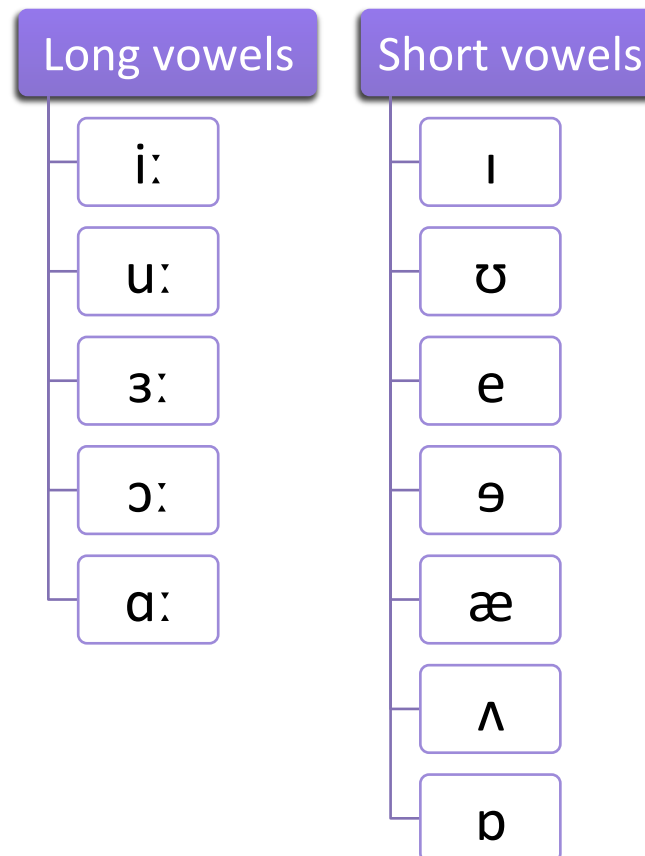
There are 3 factors that we can take into account specifying how the size and shape of the oral cavity change during the production of different vowels:

1. The vertical difference between the upper surface of the tongue and the roof of the mouth.
2. The part of the tongue which is raised highest.
3. The shape of the lips.



How we describe and classify English vowels

There are 12 vowels in English. Some are long vowels and some are short.



How we describe and classify English vowels

The vertical difference between the upper surface of the tongue and the roof of the mouth:

➤ If the tongue is raised close to the roof of of mouth the vowel is called **closed vowel (high vowels)**, which are: /i:/, /u:/, /ɪ/ and /ʊ/

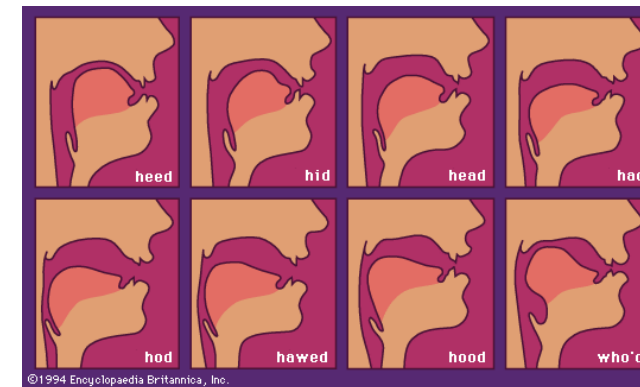
E.g. heed /hi:d/

➤ If the tongue is not raised high and the mouth is open the vowel is called **open vowel (lower vowels)**, which are: /ɑ:/, /æ/, /ʌ/ and /ɒ/

E.g. part /pɑ:t/

➤ If the tongue is in a position that is neither close nor open but between the close and open positions the vowel produced is called **mid vowel**, which are: /ɜ:/, /ɔ:/, /e/ and /ə/

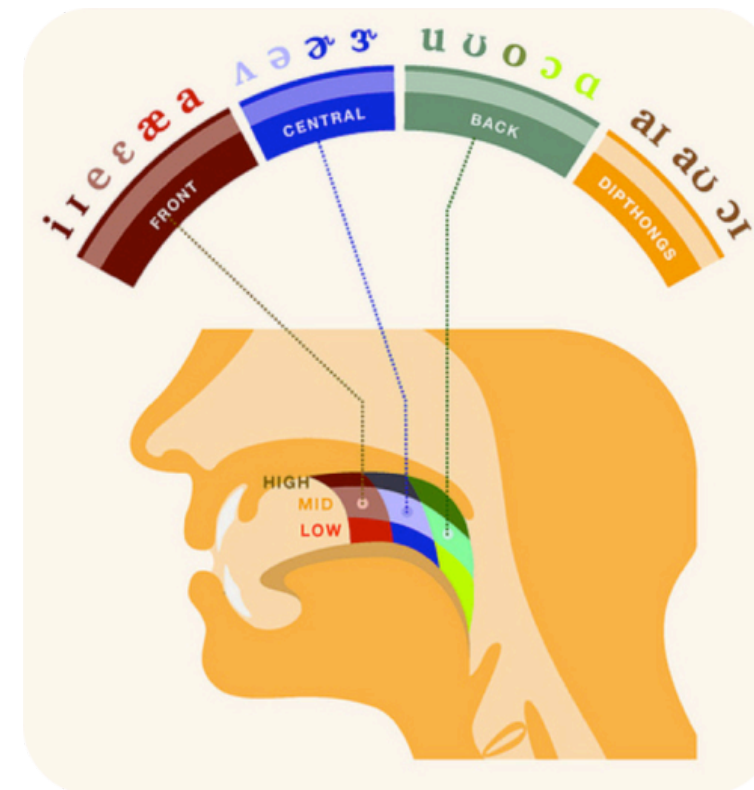
E.g. surf /sɜ:f/



How we describe and classify English vowels

Which part of the tongue is raised highest?

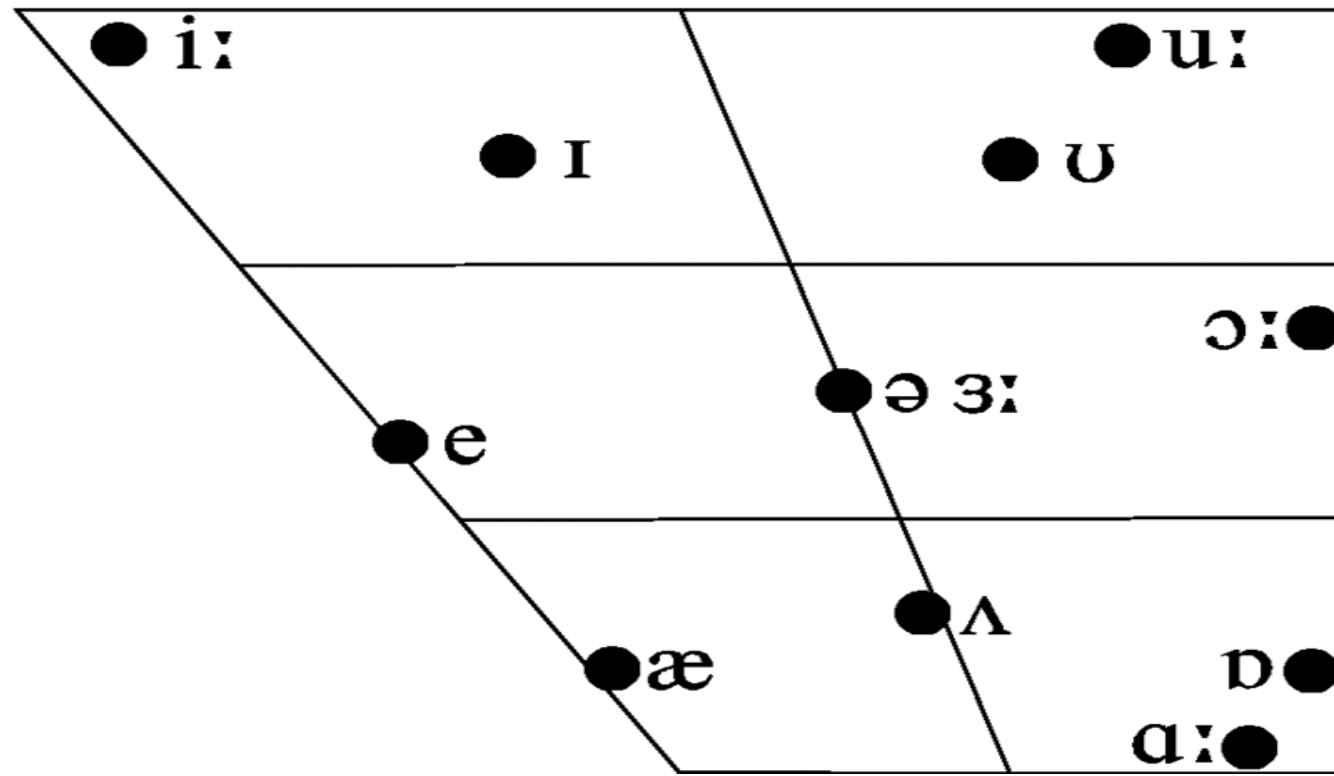
- If the front of the tongue is raised high the vowel produced is called **front vowel** which are: /i:/, /e/, /ɪ/ and /æ/
- If the back of the tongue is raised high the vowel produced is called **back vowel** which are: /u:/, /ɔ:/, /ɑ:/ and /ɒ/
- If the central part of the tongue is raised high the vowel produced is called **central vowel**, which are: /ɜ:/, /ə/ and /ʌ/



How we describe and classify English vowels

How is the shape of the lips?

- If the lips are rounded the vowel produced is called **rounded vowel** which are: /u:/, /ʊ/, /ɔ:/, and /ɒ/
- If the lips are spread the vowel produced is called **unrounded vowel** which are: /i:/, /ɪ/, /ɑ:/, /ɜ:/, /e/, /æ/, /ə/ and /æ/



Diphthongs

There are other vowel sounds that are characterized by a glide or movement from one vowel to another. These vowels are named **Diphthongs**. Whereas the previous twelve vowels are called **Monophthongs**.

/ɪ/	/ʊ/	/ə/
/eɪ/ → Rain /reɪn/	/aʊ/ → town /taʊn/	/ɪə/ → here /hɪə/
/aɪ/ → time /taɪm/	/əʊ/ → toe /təʊ/	/eə/ → hair /hɪə/
/ɔɪ/ → boil /bɔɪl/		/ʊə/ → poor /pʊə/

Diphthongs have one sound gliding into the second. The second sound usually is longer and louder than the first.

This is all for today

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK 😊