**ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION [ˈ ɪŋglɪʃ prənʌnsɪˈeɪʃn]**

**PHONEMIC SYMBOLS (International Phonetic Alphabet- IPA)**

**What are phonemic symbols and why do we need them?**

Phonemic symbols represent the sounds of the English language. The phonemic transcriptions in dictionaries are based on the standard English accent known as ‘Received Pronunciation’(RP for short). However, there are other regional and international English accents.

Sometimes we need to use phonemic symbols because the English alphabet has 26 letters but the sounds that may be produced are almost double that number. Inevitably, English spelling is not a reliable guide to pronunciation because;

-some letters have more than one sound

-sometimes letters are not pronounced at all

-the same sound may be represented by different letters

-sometimes syllabes indicated by the spelling are not pronounced at all

There are 45 phonemic symbols. We write the phonemic symbols in between slashes ( / /) . The consonants are the easiest to learn because most of them have the same form as a letter of the alphabet.

**What is a consonant?**

Consonant is a speech sound made by partly or completely stopping the flow of air through your mouth. There are 24 consonants in English alphabet

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| /p/ | /b/ | /t/ | /d/ | /k/ | /g/ | /f/ | /v/ |
| /s/ | /z/ | /l/ | /m/ | /n/ | /h/ | /r/ | /w/ |
| /j/ | /θ/ |  / ð / | / ʃ / | / ʒ / | / tʃ / | / dʒ / | / ŋ / |

**What is a vowel?**

Vowel is a lettter that represents a consonant sound (a,e,i,o,u, sometimes y). It is one of te human speech sounds that you make by letting your breath flow out without closing any part of your mouth or throat. There are 12 vowels in English alphabet.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| /iː/ | /ɪ/ | /e / | / æ /  |  / ɑː / | / ɒ / | / ɔː / | / uː / |
| /ʌ / | /ɜː/ | / ʊ / | / ə / |

**What is a dipthong?**

Dipthong is a vowel sound made by pronuncing 2 vowels quickly one after the other,

for example : m**ai**n. There are 8 dipthongs in English alphabet.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| / eɪ / | / ɑɪ / | / ɔɪ / | / əʊ / | /ɑʊ / | / ɪə / | / eə / | / ʊə / |