

INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET FOR SINGERS

VOWELS

ɑ	bright, open, front	<u>h</u> alf (New England English)
æ	bright, mid-open, front	<u>c</u> at (E), <u>l</u> ad (E), <u>b</u> ad (E)
ɑ	dark, open, back	<u>f</u> ather (E), <u>n</u> ot (E), <u>w</u> asp (E), <u>p</u> asse (Fr), <u>V</u> ater (Gr)
ɒ	very dark	<u>h</u> ot (Brit)
ɛ	bright, closed	<u>café</u> (E, Fr), <u>che</u> (It), <u>que</u> (Sp), <u>lesen</u> (Gr)
ɛ	open	<u>set</u> (E), <u>quella</u> (It), <u>mère</u> (Fr), <u>wenn</u> (Gr), <u>el</u> (Sp)
ɜ		<u>learn</u>
ì	high, forward, closed	<u>p</u> izza (E, It), <u>lit</u> (Fr), <u>mio</u> (It, Sp), <u>L</u> iebe (Gr)
ɪ	open	<u>s</u> it (E), <u>b</u> itte (Gr)
ɔ	dark, closed	<u>obey</u> (E), <u>eau</u> (Fr), <u>S</u> ohn (Gr)
ʏ	bright, unrounded o	for vowel modification in singing
ɔ	dark, mid-open, far back	<u>l</u> aw (E), <u>t</u> roppo (It), <u>c</u> omme (Fr), <u>ob</u> (Gr)
u	high, back, very rounded	<u>to</u> o (E), <u>più</u> (It), <u>ou</u> (Fr), <u>du</u> (Gr)
ʊ	back, moderately rounded	<u>g</u> ood (E), <u>M</u> utter (Gr)
ʉ	bright, unrounded u	
ʌ	dark, mid-open, back	<u>c</u> up (E)
ə	schwa; unstressed neutral vowel	<u>sof</u> a (E), <u>a</u> bout (E), <u>comm</u> a (E), <u>sag</u> e (Fr), <u>geb</u> oren (Gr)

ROUNDED (COMBINATION) FRONT VOWELS

- Y** tongue position of **İ** combined with lip position of **U**: tu (Fr), für (Gr)
Y tongue position of **I** combined with lip position of **U**: Hütte (Gr)
Ø tongue position of **e** combined with lip position of **O**: peu (Fr), schön (Gr)
œ tongue position of **ɛ** combined with lip position of **ɔ**: cœur (Fr), Götter (Gr)

NASAL VOWELS (Used primarily in French)

- ɛ̃** can't (E), fin (Fr), pain (Fr), rien (Fr)
ɑ̃ pomp (E), tremble (Fr), enfant (Fr)
ɔ̃ gaunt (E), bon (Fr), mon (Fr), tombe (Fr)
œ̃ no English equivalent, un (Fr), parfum (Fr), humble (Fr)

DIPHTHONGS

<u>American English</u>	<u>British (for singing)</u>	<u>German</u>
AI <u>night</u>	ɛə <u>air</u>	aɛ <u>Hain</u> , <u>Mai</u> , <u>Geist</u> , <u>Bayreuth</u>
EI <u>day</u>	Iə <u>ear</u>	aɔ <u>Haus</u> , <u>Frau</u> , <u>Bauer</u> , <u>Augen</u>
OI <u>boy</u>	ɔə <u>ore</u>	ɔø <u>Fräulein</u> , <u>freude</u> , <u>Träume</u>
AU <u>now</u>	ʊə <u>sure</u>	
OU <u>no</u>		

TRIPHTHONGS (Pronounce examples using British English)

- Aɪə** fire
Aʊə our

GLIDES (Vowels used as consonants)

- j** (**İ** used as a consonant): yellow (E), fille, yeux (Fr), Jahr (Gr)
ɥ (**Y** used as a consonant): nuit, pluie (Fr)
w (**U** used as a consonant): water (E), loin (Fr)

CONSONANTS

		<u>Voiced</u>	<u>Unvoiced</u>
Plosives	Bilabial ¹ plosives ²	b	p
	Velar ³ plosives	g	k
	Alveolar ⁴ plosives	d	t
Nasals	Bilabial nasal ⁵	m	
	Alveolar nasal	n	
	Velar nasal	ŋ <u>si</u> ng (E)	
	Palatal ⁶ nasal	ɲ <u>o</u> nion (E), <u>o</u> gni (It)	

¹ Bilabial consonants are made with both lips (bi="both", labial="lips")

² Plosives are consonant sounds made by stopping the air flow in the vocal tract. Therefore, "bilabial plosives" use both lips to stop the airflow in the vocal tract. Even at the beginning of a word, the air flow is "stopped." Consider the name Bob [**b**ab]. The [**b**] stops the airflow at both the beginning and ending of the word since one must begin the word with positive pulmonic pressure.

³ Velars are consonants made with the back part of the tongue (dorsum) and the soft palate (velum).

⁴ Alveolar consonants are made by touching the tongue to the superior alveolar ridge (the area just behind the top front teeth).

⁵ Nasal consonants are produced with a lowered velum (soft palate) so that air exits through the nose.

⁶ Palatal consonants are articulated with the body of the tongue raised against the hard palate (the middle part of the roof of the mouth).

	<u>Voiced</u>	<u>Unvoiced</u>
Labiodental ⁷ fricatives ⁸	V	f
Alveolar fricatives	Z	S
Postalveolar ⁹ fricatives	ʒ <u>azure</u> (E), <u>Jean</u> (Fr)	ʃ <u>sure</u> (E), <u>chère</u> (Fr), <u>Schiff</u> (Gr)
• Dental fricatives	ð <u>thine</u> (E)	θ <u>thought</u> (E)
• Palatal fricative		ç <u>ich</u> (Gr)
• Velar fricative		x <u>ach</u> (Gr), <u>Bach</u> (Gr)
• Bilabial fricatives	β <u>vende</u> (Sp)	ϕ
Postalveolar affricatives ¹⁰	dʒ	tʃ

⁷ Labiodental consonants are articulated with the lower lip (labio) and the upper teeth (dental).

⁸ Fricatives are consonants produced by forcing air through a narrow channel made by placing two articulators close together. For example, labiodental fricatives force air through the narrow channel created by approximating the lower lip and the upper teeth.

⁹

¹⁰ Affricatives are made up of a stop and its immediately following release into a fricative that are considered to constitute a single phoneme. Consider the difference between *shoes* [ʃuːz] (fricative) and *choose* (affricative) [tʃuːz].