

Title:

The American Accent: Pronunciation Of The Vowels

Word Count:

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Summary:

The English Vowel SOUNDS

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Article Body:

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It is useful to use a course with recordings of the language you are learning. A good one - an

Let's look at the "pure" vowels that are present in many languages. They are called pure becau

In the following section, you can get a quick look at the English vowels that sound "something

The following sounds of English are similar (not the same!) to the sounds /a/, /e/, /i/, /o/,

- The English vowel of the word pot is pronounced like the letter "a" in many languages. Learn
- The English "e" in the word May.
- The English "i" in the word feet.
- The English "o" in the word goal .
- The English "u" in the word moon

We will start with the five vowel sounds as represented by the International Phonetic Alphabet

The first pure vowel SOUND in English (represented by the letter "a" in most languages) is rep

You open your mouth wide when you make this sound. This sound show up in the words father, car

This sound is a form of the English vowel sound /o/ (the "short o") and not of the /a/. Theref

Sure, it is always better to listen to a native speaker but sometimes you don't have one aroun

Get a good dictionary that uses the IPA like the "Longmans Basic Dictionary of American Englis

For the Longmans: [http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0582332516/ref=ase\\_launionbook](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0582332516/ref=ase_launionbook)

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For more on this topic, see: <http://www.inglesparalatinos.com>

Let's go on to the other vowels /e/, /i/, /o/, /u/ or rather the sounds in English that are represented by these letters. These sounds in English are not "pure", as in many other languages, because almost they always have a little "tail" at the end. If you pronounce the /e/ sound in English without the little "tail" at the end, you will not be understood. In the musical My Fair Lady, the professor tries to teach the pronunciation of the English /e/. Your mouth is stretched to the sides when you make the /i/ sound. Remember this /i/ sound is stretched. There is very little "tail" after the sound of the /i/ in English in words such as feet, pea, field. If you pronounce the vowel /o/ of the word phone (telephone) the same as the sounds son or ton, you will not be understood. You have to feel your lips move as you pronounce the English /o/. They don't remain still as in many other languages. Similarly to the /i/ sound, there is very little "tail" after the English /u/ sound. You can have a rather good pronunciation by just lengthening the vowel. Your lips are rounded when you make the /u/ sound.

#### Summary of the English Vowels

The five basic vowel sounds of many languages are present in English but with the following observations:

1. The vowel that is represented by the letter "a" in many languages, more often appears in words with "e" or "i".
2. English spelling has very little to do with the sounds it represents. Or to put it in another way, the English spelling is often misleading.

The /a/ sound is the vowel sound of the English word pot.

The /e/ sound (always with the "tail") can be spelled many ways: may, weigh, they.

The sound /i/ (a little lengthened) is used in many different ways: feet, pea, field, receive.

The sound /o/ (with its /u/ tail) is represented in the following ways: loan, foe, though, block.

The sound /u/ (a little lengthened) shows up under in unexpected ways in the English words moon, two.

Strange spelling in English! Right? But the spelling is often misleading. We will get to it. Remember the English spelling is often misleading.

One way to remember is to think of how you shape your mouth when you speak English. Try to imagine the shape of your mouth when you speak English.

Similarly, make the effort to think of giving a kiss when you finish a word that ends with the /u/ sound.

Don't forget! We have been talking of the vowel sounds, not the letters of the alphabet that spell the words.

Meanwhile if you read Spanish you can find pages on Ortografía and Pronunciación in <http://www.ortografia.com>

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