

Worksheet 3.2 Phonetic Symbols Worksheet and Solution

Adapted from the [Oxford English Dictionary](#): Key to pronunciation: Irish English

This simple pronunciation guide avoids strong regional or socially marked forms on the island of Ireland. They are intended to include the most common variants for each word. The / / tells you they are phonetic symbols.

We use phonetic symbols to show clearly how a word is pronounced. English spelling is not very “phonetic” (the same sound can be written in different ways, and some letters have a number of different possible pronunciations, and of course there are “silent” letters too).

Vowels		Consonants	
Hiberno English	Example	Hiberno English	Example
i:	flee <u>ce</u> /fli:s/	b	big, cab /bɪg, kæb/
i	happ <u>y</u> /hæpi/	d	dig, road /dɪg, rɔʊd/
ɪ	kit /kɪt/	dʒ	jet, fridge /dʒet, frɪdʒ/
ɛ	dress /drɛs/	f	fig, cough /fɪg, kɒf/
æ	tr <u>ap</u> /træp/	g	get, big /gɛt, bɪg/
a:	bath, p <u>al</u> m /bɑ:θ, pɑ:m/	h	hut /hʌt/
ɑ	l <u>ot</u> /lɑt/	j	yes /jɛs/
ɒ:	cl <u>o</u> th, h <u>aw</u> k /klɒ:θ, hɒ:k/	k	kit, sick /kɪt, sɪk/
ʊ	fo <u>o</u> t, cu <u>p</u> /fʊt/, kʊp/	l	leg, pull /lɛg, pʊl/
ə:r	n <u>ur</u> se /nə:rs/	m	mud, lamb /mʌd, læm/
i:r	h <u>er</u> e /hi:r/	n	net, pen /nɛt, pɛn/
e:r	squ <u>ar</u> e /skwe:r/	ŋ	thing /θɪŋ/
u:r	cu <u>r</u> e /kju:r/	p	pit, map /pɪt, mæp/
ɑ:r	st <u>ar</u> t /stɑ:rt/	r	red, fair /rɛd, fe:r/
ɒ:r	n <u>or</u> th, f <u>or</u> ce /nɒ:rθ, fɒ:rs/	s	sit, loose /sɪt, lu:s/
u:	go <u>o</u> se /gu:s/	ʃ	ship, nation, fish /ʃɪp, ne:ʃ(ə)n, fɪʃ/
ə	aw <u>a</u> y, alph <u>a</u> /əwe:, ælfə/	t	tip, cat /tɪp, kæt/
e:	f <u>a</u> ce /fe:s/	tʃ	chip, match /tʃɪp, mætʃ/
aɪ	pr <u>i</u> ze /praɪz/	θ	thin, path /θɪn, pɑ:θ/
aɪ	pr <u>i</u> ce /praɪs/	v	vet, leave /vɛt, li:v/
aʊ	m <u>ou</u> nd /maʊnd/	w	win /wɪn/
oʊ	go <u>o</u> t /gɔʊt/	z	zip, dogs /zɪp, dɒgz/
ɒɪ	ch <u>oi</u> ce /tʃɔɪs/	ʒ	vision /'vɪʒ(ə)n/
ər	lett <u>er</u> /lɛtər/	ð	then, bath <u>e</u> /ðɛn, be:ð/
		x	loch /lɑx/



Linguistics: Topic 3 Phonetics

Notes: /θ/ and /ð/ are pronounced as dental [t] and [d] by some speakers, differentiated from /t/ and /d/ by the position of the tongue tip. Vowel sounds especially can vary depending on regional accent, particularly the diphthongs (/aɪ, aɪ, aʊ, oʊ, ɒɪ/ in northern accents).

Task 1 Referring to the Pronunciation Guide above, fill out this worksheet. Variation with others in your class is normal and expected.

Irish language IPA: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Irish>

A more comprehensive list of IPA symbols can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Phonetic_Alphabet as the symbols used for other languages are not always the same as English.

	Write your name etc.	Phonetic Transcription (Pronunciation)
E.g. Name 1	Niamh	/ni:v/
Name		
School		
County		

Country	Ireland	/ɑ:rlənd/
Language studied		
Favourite Hobby		

Favourite musician		
Favourite book		

Write down 5 (short!) song titles or books of your choice using this phonetic transcription **and swap your sheet with your partner** for them to transcribe the phonetic symbols into written English.

Phonetic Transcription (Pronunciation)	Written word
E.g. /θɑ:rsti/	thirsty
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Linguistics: Topic 3 Phonetics

Did you know you can look up how to pronounce words in language class dictionaries? You can also use the full [International Phonetic Alphabet](#) for this.

Look up five book titles from your home language or language class and write down their transcriptions

Which language are using e.g. French _____

Home or classroom language	Transcription
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Irish guide: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Irish>

More comprehensive IPA guide https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Phonetic_Alphabet

Was there any words you didn't have the phonetic symbols for? E.g. *le chien* in French.

Why do you think this is?

No solution as students will be choosing their own examples.