

Phonemes of Standard Australian English

Consonant phonemes

	IPA	
b	b	bat bubbles sob
d	d	dog ladder rolled
f	f	fish coffee phone laugh
g	g	goat egg giggle guess
h	h	horse who
k	k	cat kite duck school queen
l	l	lion ball yellow
m	m	monkey hammer climb
n	n	nut dinner knee gnome guess
ŋ	ŋ	king finger bank
p	p	pig puppy
r	r	rat cherry rhino write
s	s	sea dress cent science

	IPA	
ʃ	ʃ	ship station special machine
ʒ	ʒ	treasure television beige
t	t	tap little jumped
θ	θ	thumb three
ð	ð	then feather smooth
v	v	violin sleeve of
z	z	zebra jazz his

Two phone (two sound) consonant clusters

ch	tʃ	chicken watch
j	dʒ	jump giant cage edge
x	ks	fox expect
x	gz	exact
qu	kw	queen equal

Vowel phonemes

Semi-vowels

	IPA	
w	w	water wheel queen
y	j	yellow million

Monophthongs ¹

	IPA	
æ	æ	apple cat plait
ɑ:	ɑ:	car giraffe half spa
ɛ	ɛ	egg head any
ɪ	ɪ	pig build women
i:	i:	emu tree leaf pony ski
ɒ	ɒ	frog watch sausage
ɔ:	ɔ:	fork more ball paw
ʊ	ʊ	book could push
u:	u:	moon soup judo rude glue
ʌ	ʌ	cup come trouble
ɜ:	ɜ:	fern bird fur worm heard
ə	ə	about taken pencil lemon

Diphthongs ² (two sounds gliding as one phoneme)

	IPA	
eɪ	eɪ	face baby say snail eight
aɪ	aɪ	tiger kite fly night buy
ɔɪ	ɔɪ	coin boy
aʊ	aʊ	brown house
oʊ	oʊ	so bone boat toe snow
ɪə	ɪə	ear here deer
ɛə	ɛə	hair square there

Triphthongs ³ (3 sounds gliding as one phoneme)

	IPA	
aɪə	aɪə	fire tyre
ɑʊə	ɑʊə	flour tower
jʊə	jʊə	cure tour newer

1 A **monophthong** (or 'pure' vowel) is a vowel phoneme retaining the same quality for its whole duration.

2 A **diphthong** consists of two phones (two sounds) gliding together as a single phoneme (the separate sounds can not be segmented).

3 A **triphthong** consists of three phones (three sounds) gliding together as a single phoneme.

Phonemes of Standard Australian English

(traditional grouping)

Consonant Phonemes

Common symbol	IPA symbol	Sample Words
b	b	bat, rabbit, sob
ch	tʃ	chin, match
d	d	dog, middle, rolled
f	f	frog, coffee, phone, laugh
g	g	goat, ago, wiggle, ghost, guess
h	h	hand, who
j	dʒ	jet, giant, cage, bridge
k	k	cat, kitten, sick, school, ache, queen
l	l	lion, yellow
m	m	mud, summer, climb
n	n	nut, sunny
ng	ŋ	song, wink
p	p	pig, hippo
r	r	rat, cherry, write, rhino
s	s	sun, cent, dress, science
sh ¹	ʃ	ship, sugar, tissue, nation
zh ²	ʒ	treasure, azure
t	t	tap, little, jumped
th ³	θ	thumb, other, both
th ⁴	ð	this, feather, smooth
v	v	violin, sleeve, of
w	w	water, wheel, queen
y	y	yellow, million
z	z	zebra, scissors, jazz, his

Vowel Phonemes

Common symbol	IPA symbol	Sample Words
ă	æ	ant, cat, plait
ā	eɪ	ate, race, tail, day, they
air	eə	hair, wear, stare
ar	ɑ:	art, father, star, can't, spa
ě	ɛ	egg, ten, bread, any
ē	i:	emu, seat, me, tree, funny, ski
eer	ɪə	fear, deer, pier
er	ɜ:	term, learn, bird, word, fur
ĭ	ɪ	igloo, lip, gym
ī	aɪ	mice, tie, shy, high, buy
ire	aɪə	fire, tyre
ō	ɒ	frog, wash, sausage
ō	əʊ	ocean, boat, hose, slow, no, toe, though
or	ɔ:	fork, talk, saw, floor, caught
oo	ʊ	wood, put, could
oy	ɔɪ	boy, boil
ow	aʊ	owl, cow, shout
our	ɑʊə	flour, shower
ŭ	ʌ	sun, oven, love, trouble
ū ⁵	u:	ooze, food, June, ruby, true, few, soup
ure	jʊə	tour, newer, pure
ə ⁶	ə	ago, taken, pencil, lemon

1. unvoiced 2. voiced 3. unvoiced 4. voiced

5. /ū/ is longer /oo/ as in *ruby* and *June*.

It is not /yoo/. /yoo/ is the name of the letter.

6. /ə/ is the short, unaccented vowel 'schwa'.