# 1 The Pronunciation Alphabet

## 1.1 Consonants

| | |
|---|---|
| p | pie, hope, happy |
| b | bell, bite, globe |
| f | fine, office |
| v | vest, of, have |
| k | keep, can, book |
| g | go, get, egg |
| l | let, little, lay |
| m | man, must, dime |
| n | no, down, ton |
| ŋ | sing, ringing |
| w | water, we, one |
| θ | thin, three, path |

| | |
|---|---|
| ð | they, then, other |
| s | see, sat, city |
| z | zoo, does, is |
| ʃ | shoe, ship, action |
| ʒ | usual, garage |
| tʃ | change, watch |
| dʒ | June, edge |
| r | red, rich, write |
| y | you, yes, million |
| h | he, hat, who |
| t | ten, to, meet |
| d | do, did, sudden |

## 1.2 Vowels

| | |
|---|---|
| ɪ | it, did, build |
| i | me, see, people |
| ɛ | end, let, any |
| æ | cat, bat, laugh |
| ɑ | army, father, hot |
| ɔ | all, caught, long |
| âr | care |
| ʊ | book, full, took |
| u | too, move, fruit |

| | |
|---|---|
| ʊ | cup, butter |
| ə | soda, infant |
| ɚ | her, work, bird |
| e | say, they, mail |
| o | old, coal, sew, more |
| ɑɪ | dry, eye, buy |
| ɔɪ | toy, boy, soil |
| ɑʊ | cow, our, house |

# 2 Tricky Words to Pronounce

## 2.1 Consonants

### Silent Consonants

- No **b**: **debt** /dæt/. **doubt** /dɑʊt/. **subtle** /sʊt'l/.
- No **c**: **muscle** /mʊs'əl/
- No **d**: **Wednesday** /wænz'de/.
- No **h**: **hour**, **honor**, **honesty**. Pronounce honor as /ɑn'ər/.
- No **l**:
  - **salmon** /sæm'ən/.
  - **walk** /wɔk/. Also talk.
  - **calf** /kæf/ (like staff). Also **half**.
  - **should** /ʃʊd/ (like good). Also **could**, **would**.
  - **shouldn't**: First pronounce the accented root word clearly. Then say /nt/ as an extra syllable. Also **couldn't**, **wouldn't**.
- No **p**: **receipt** /rɪsit'/.
- No **s**: **island** /ɑɪ'lənd/.
- No **t**: **listen** /lɪs'ən/. **mustn't** /mʊs'nət/. **often** (like coffin) /ɔ'fən/.
- No **w**:
  - **answer** /æn'sər/.
  - **who** /hu/. **whose** /huz/. **whole** /hol/.

### Tricky Consonants

- **actual** /æk'-tʃu-əl/. Also structure.
- **ocean** (like motion) /o'ʃən/.
- **issue** /ɪ'ʃu/. Also **tissue**.
- **sure** /ʃur/. Also **sugar**.
- **clothes** Preferred /kloz/. Also /kloðz/.
- **close** (v.) /kloz/. **close** (adv.) /klos/.

### Consonants that change before "to"

- **use** /yuz/. Also simple past **used** /yuzd/. **used to** /yus'tu/.
- **have** /hæv/. **have to** /hæf'tu/.
- **has** /hæz/. **has to**: /hæz'tu/.
- **close**: /kloz/. **close to**: /klos'tu/.

### The "ough" words

- **enough** /ɪ-nʊf'/. Also **rough**, **tough**.
- **through** (like true) /θru/. **bough** (like cow) /bɑʊ/.
- **thought** (like hot) /θɑt/. Also **ought**, **caught**, **brought**, **bought**.
- **though** (like go) /ðo/. Also **although**. **thorough** /θʊr'o/.

## 2.2 Vowels

### A

- **say** (like day) /se/. **said** /sɛd/. **says** /sɛz/.
- **laugh** (like staff) /læf/.
- **fountain** /fɑʊn'tən/. Also **mountain**, **Britain**, **portrait**.
- **image** /ɪm'ɪj/. Also **hostage**.

### E

- **heart** (like start) /hɑrt/.
- **threat** (like get) /θrɛt/. Also **thread**, **sweat**. **weather** /wɛð'ər/.
- **read** (in present, like feed) /rid/. **read** (in past, like red) /rɛd/.
- **where** (like air) /wâr/. **were** (like her) /wɚr/. **we're** (like beer) /wir/. **war** /wor/.
- **their**, **there**, **they're** (all like air) /ðâr/.
- **eight** (like ate) /et/. Also **weight**. **height** (like kite) /hɑɪt/.
- **foreign** /for'ɪn/.
- **knew** (like true) /nu/. Also **blew**, **flew**.
- **Europe** /yur'əp/.

### I

- **examine** /ɪgzæm'ən/. Also **imagine**, **determine**, **genuine**, **engine**. Note that the accent is on the syllable before the last.
- **promise** /prɑ'məs/.
- **fragile** /fræ'jəl/.

**O**

- **woman** /wʊm'ən/. **women** /wɪ'ən/.
- **work** (like jerk) /wɛrk/. Also **word** (like bird), **world**.
- **on** /ɑn/. **one** /wɑn/. **once** /wɑns/. **only** /on'li/. **own** (like bone) /on/.
- **money** (like funny) /mʊ'ni/.
- **tomb** (like broom) /tum/.
- **bomb** (like mom) /bɑm/.
- **do** (like true) /du/. **done** (like gun) /dʊn/.
- **go** (like no) /go/. **gone** (like on) /gɑn/.
- **flood** (like mud) /flʊd/. Also **blood**.
- **country** /cʊn'tri/.
- **famous** /fe'məs/. **obvious** /ɑb'vi-əs/. **jealous** /jɛ'ləs/.
- **south** /sɑʊθ/. **southern** /sʊ'ðɛrn/. The same "th" change occurs in **north** and **northern**.

**U**

- **bury** (like carry) /bɛr'i/.
- **study** /stʊ'di/. **student** /stu'dənt/.
- **fruit** (like boot) /frut/. Also **suit**. **suite** (equals sweet) /swit/.
- **business** /bɪz'nəs/. **building** /bɪl'dɪŋ/.