

## \*VOWEL CHART

The IPA symbols with English examples provide an approximation of the vowel sound. Actual vowel formation and resonance must be defined for each language.

TONGUE VOWELS are also called front vowels. They require a front arch of the tongue. There are two fundamental closed front vowels: [i] and [e]. Each closed vowel has a corresponding open vowel form.

closed [i] *see* < open [ɪ] *bit*                      closed [e] *chaos* < open [ɛ] *said*

LIP VOWELS are also called back vowels. They require lip rounding and a back tongue arch. There are two fundamental closed back vowels: [u] and [o]. Each closed vowel has a corresponding open vowel form.

closed [u] *blue* < open [ʊ] *look*                      closed [o] *provide* < open [ɔ] *ought*

MIXED VOWELS require lip rounding and a front tongue arch. There are two fundamental closed mixed vowels with a corresponding open vowel form: closed [y] < open [ʏ]    closed [ø] < open [œ]

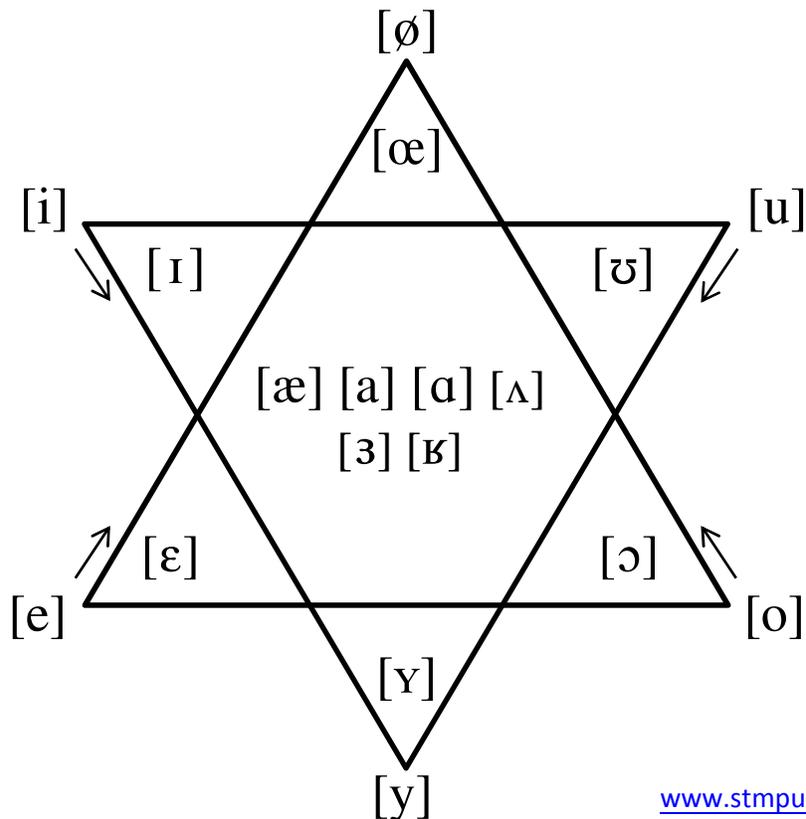
[i] tongue + [u] lip = [y] *früh, une*                      <                      [ɪ] tongue + [ʊ] lip = [ʏ] *Glück*  
 [e] tongue + [o] lip = [ø] *schön, yeux*                      <                      [ɛ] tongue + [ɔ] lip = [œ] *möcht, cœur*

CENTRAL VOWELS do not require lip rounding.

There are four central vowels: dark [ɑ] *father*, bright [a] *voilà*, [æ] *sat*, [ʌ] *up* (optional: [ɒ] *hot*)  
 There are two r colored vowels: English [ɜ] *bird*, German [ɝ] *der*

NASAL VOWELS resonate in the height of the yawn space with a small amount of shared resonant space in the nasal cavity. There are four nasal vowels: [ã], [ɛ̃], [õ], and [œ̃].

CHART DESCRIPTION: The front vowels are on the left side of the chart, the back vowels are on the right side of the chart, and the mixed vowels are at the top and bottom (the arrows indicate vowel mixing). The schwa is not included since its pronunciation varies from language to language. The points indicate closed vowels, the broader spaces indicate open vowels, and the center space is reserved for central vowels.



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