

Escuela Superior de Huejutla.

Phonemic symbols in English

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Abstract.

English is a very tricky language to use at the beginning especially for Spanish speakers, and it is the topic we are going to cover today.

I would like to start explaining that English has some especial sounds that sometimes we can not repeat

Key words: Alphabet, sounds, long vowel.

Why use phonemic symbols?

The English alphabet which we use to write English has 26 letters but (British) English has 44 sounds. Inevitably English spelling is not a reliable guide to pronunciation because:

Some letters have more than one sound.

Sometimes letters are not pronounced at all.

The same sound may be represented by different letters.

Sometimes syllables indicated by the spelling are not pronounced at all.

Long vowel sounds:

i: **u:** **ɜ:** **a:** **ɔ:**

i:

sea	/si:/
me	/mi:/
free	/fri:/

u:

<u>fo</u> od	/fu:d/
cr <u>u</u> de	/kru:d/
d <u>o</u>	/du:/

3:

<u>bird</u>	/bɜ:d/
<u>word</u>	/wɜ:d/
<u>heard</u>	/hɜ:d/

a:

<u>car</u>	/kɑ:/
<u>art</u>	/ɑ:t/
<u>hard</u>	/hɑ:d/

ɔː

<u>saw</u>	/sɔː/
<u>score</u>	/skɔː/
<u>four</u>	/fɔː/

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