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American English Pronunciation

Class 3

The Letter E

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Definitions

Term	Definition	Example
vowel	Aa, Ee, Ii, Oo, Uu (Yy)	Open the door. This is my home.
consonant	All other letters of the alphabet	z c
"long" vowel	The sound made by the vowel is the same as the name of the vowel	hope (letter a) hi (letter i)
"short" vowel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sound is not the same as the name Usually occurs between consonants 	hop hip

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International Phonetic Alphabet

1	i:	ɪ	ʊ	u:	2	ɪə	eɪ	5.
2	e	æ	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ	oʊ	
3	æ	ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ	ɛə	aɪ	aʊ	
4	p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g
5	f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ
6	m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j

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1. /i/ - The Long E

end short word, beginning, ee, ea

1. This food is for me.
2. He is nice.
3. We want equal rights.
4. This car is electric.
5. I can't see.
6. Wool comes from sheep.
7. The ocean is deep.

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2. /e/ - The Short E

between consonants, beginning word

1. I'm resting in bed.
2. I like red strawberries.
3. This is terrible.
4. Boys become men.
5. I like eggs and bacon.
6. The end is near.
7. Everybody gets old.

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3. /ɪə/ - (diphthong)

before r

1. Lysol kills bacteria.
2. I eat in the cafeteria.
3. What material is this?
4. ee: deer, career, engineer
5. ea: ear, gear, spear
6. ere: sphere, here, severe

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Compare

2. /e/

- berry, terrible, Jerry, Terry

3. /ɪə/

- material, deer, gear

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4. /ə/ - The Schwa (Weak /ʌ/)

un-emphasized e

1. I don't even know you.
2. My heart is broken.
3. I'm a college student.
4. I'll never love another.
5. I don't understand Russian.
6. I come home after work.

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5. /ɪ/ - The Short I

e + t (normally at end)

1. This rocket is going to space.
2. Pinocchio was a puppet.
3. Crickets chirp at night.
4. You look very pretty.

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6. // - Silent

V-C-V at end

1. can – cane
2. cub – cube
3. pin – pine
4. rob – robe
5. Sam – same
6. tap – tape
7. tub – tube

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6. // - Silent

u + e

1. Tuesday
2. rescue

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