

44 Phonemes – British Received Pronunciation

Consonant Phonemes	Sample Words
/b/	bat
/k/	cat
/d/	dog
/f/	fan
/g/	go
/h/	hen
/j/	jet
/l/	leg
/m/	map
/n/	net
/p/	pen
/r/	rat
/s/	sun
/t/	tap
/v/	van
/w/	wig
/x/	box
/y/	yes
/z/	zip
/sh/	shop
/ch/	chip
/th/	thin
/th/	then
/ng/	ring
/zh/ ¹	vision

¹ The grapheme 'zh' does not occur in English words. Because this sound does not occur in simple CVC words, it can be omitted in Phase Three.

Vowel Phonemes	Sample Words
/a/	ant
/e/	egg
/i/	in
/o/	on
/u/	up
/ai/	rain
/ee/	feet
/igh/	night
/oa/	boat
/oo/	boot
/oo/	look
/ow/	cow
/oi/	coin
/ar/	farm
/or/	for
/ur/	hurt
/air/	fair
/ear/	dear
/ure/ ²	sure
//	corner (the 'schwa' – an unstressed vowel sound which is close to /u/)

² This phoneme does not occur in all accents. It occurs only if people pronounce words such as *sure* and *poor* with an /ooer/ vowel sound, not if they pronounce them as *shaw* and *paw*. It, too, can be omitted in Phase 3, and perhaps even permanently.