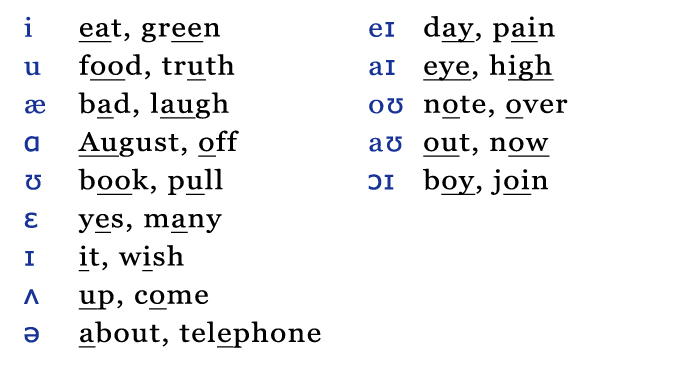
**BASIC IPA FOR AMERICAN ENGLISH**

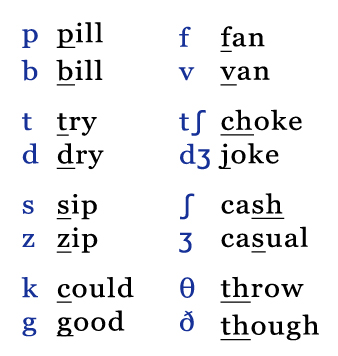
**Vowel Sounds**

[](http://www.englishteachermelanie.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/VOWELS.jpg)

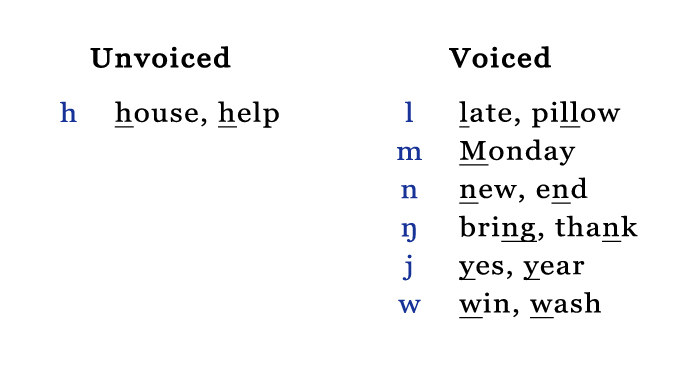
**Consonant Sounds**

**Consonant Pairs**  
The mouth position for each pair of consonant sounds below is the same, but one sound is unvoiced while the other sound is voiced.

Unvoiced = only air comes out of your mouth  
Voiced = your vocal cords produce a sound

[](http://www.englishteachermelanie.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Consonant-Pairs.jpg)

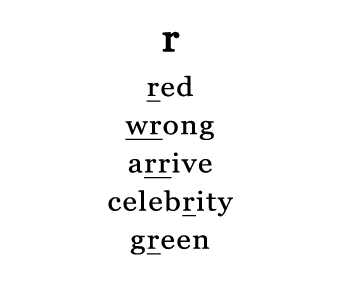
**More Consonant Sounds (Unpaired)**

[](http://www.englishteachermelanie.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Consonants-5.jpg)

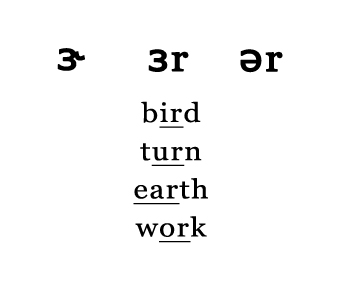
**The American R Sounds**

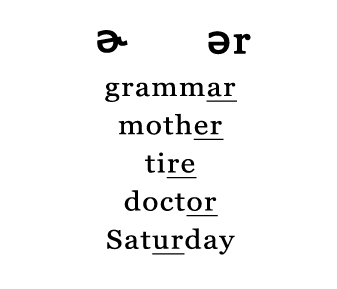
Here’s where things get confusing. This is the symbol for the American R consonant sound:  
[](http://www.englishteachermelanie.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/R1.jpg)

However, in most dictionaries, books and on websites, this is the symbol commonly used for the American R consonant sound

[](http://www.englishteachermelanie.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/R7.jpg)

One of the main differences between British and American pronunciation is that Americans pronounce the R after a vowel, and the British don’t. The American vowel R sound (like at the -er end of brother) is written a few different ways.

When the American vowel R sound occurs in a one-syllable word or a stressed syllable, you will see it written these ways:  
[](http://www.englishteachermelanie.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/R5.jpg)  
When the American vowel R sound occurs in an unstressed syllable, you will see it written these ways:

[](http://www.englishteachermelanie.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/R6.jpg)