

Ling 205 2006. Master Vowel Chart
LEARN THIS FOR FINAL EXAM

	Front Unrounded	Front Rounded	Central Unrounded	Central Rounded	Back Unrounded	Back Rounded
Higher high	i	y	ɨ	ʉ	ɯ	u
Lower high	ɪ	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	ʊ
Higher mid	e	ø	ɜ	(—)	ɤ	o
Lower mid	ɛ	œ	ʌ	(—)	(—)	ɔ
Higher low	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	ɒ
Lower low	æ	(—)	(—)	(—)	ɑ	(—)
‘Super’ low	(—)	(—)	a	(—)	(—)	(—)

Notes on disagreements of above chart with official IPA chart.

The chart above is consistent with our descriptions of the same symbols for transcription of English. Three vowels in the above are in somewhat different places than in the IPA chart on p. 336 and with Rogers’ Figure 9.14 p 185. (Rogers’ Figures for English 2.13-2.19 on pages 32-34 are closer to my chart above than either of those are to the official IPA).

- 1) Official IPA would shift the two vowels [æ] and [a] up one notch and treats [a] as a front vowel. so for IPA [a] is just lower low front unrounded while [æ] is higher low front unrounded.
- 2) Official IPA uses [ʌ] for a lower-mid **back** unrounded vowel (an unrounded [ɔ]). I have classed the vowel [ʌ] as a central vowel. In practice, I believe it is used more often for this than for a back vowel as IPA would have it. See Rogers p 185 figure 9.14 for his IPA interpretations of these vowels.
- 3) IPA would put the vowel [ɜ] where I have put [ʌ]. Rogers (p 32-34) seems to put [ʌ] down a notch and puts [ə] where I put [ʌ] in Figure 2.13 p 32. (I think [ɜ] and [ə] have the same vowel quality, but [ə] is shorter and occurs in weak syllables only.)

I have added the category ‘super low’ for the vowel [a]. The official IPA version is not quite the same. The vowel I have in mind is one that occurs in French, Swedish, probably Italian and perhaps some dialects of Spanish. Sometimes Edmonton English speakers produce something similar when they try to produce the vowel /ʌ/ very clearly in isolation (i.e. with no preceding or following consonants).