

## Consonant and vowel symbols for broad transcription of Western Canadian English Ling 205 T. Nearey

### Consonants

Symbol	VPM	Keywords	Special names
p	vls bilabial. stop	pie, sleepy, tip	
b	vcd bilabial stop	buy, about, dab	
t	vls alveolar stop	tie, atop, pat	
d	vcd alveolar stop	dim, adore, lad	
k	vls velar stop	kill, locker, sack	
g	vcd velar stop	gill, logger, pig	
f	vls labiodental fricative	fill, coffee, if	
v	vcd labiodental fricative	vet, movie, stove	
θ	vls dental fricative	thing, ether, both	theta ['θetə]
ð	vcd dental fricative	this, either, breathe	edh [ɛð] or thorn
s	vls alveolar fricative	see, fussy, mess	
z	vcd alveolar fricative	zoo, maze, Oz	
ʃ	vls postalveolar fricative	shoe, bishop, ash	esh [ɛʃ]
ʒ	vd postalveolar fricative	ZsaZsa, azure, rouge	ezh [ɛʒ]
m	(vcd) bilabial nasal	mouse, amo, aim	
n	(vcd) alveolar nasal	no, any, on	
ŋ	(vcd) velar nasal	__, singer, wing	ing [ɪŋ] or engma
l	(vcd) alveolar lateral (approximant)	lousy, solo, bull	
ɹ	(vcd) retroflex approx	ring, around, or	
j	(vcd) palatal approx	yell, union, __	yod [jod]
w	(vcd) labial-velar approx	we, tower, __	
ʔ	(vls) glottal stop	'uh - [ʔ] - oh'	glottal stop
ɹ̥	vls labiovelar approx = [w̥]	which, what (dial.)	turned 'w'
h	vls glottal fricative	how, hat	

Notes: VPM = voicing place and manner

- 1) vls = voiceless, vcd = voiced, approx = approximant
- 2) terms in (...) need not be mentioned, but can be
- 3) V P M = voicing place and manner
- 4) Lateral approximant can be viewed as a special manner class
- 5) Retroflex can be taken as a special place of articulation

**Vowels** of Western Canadian English (WCE) for broad transcription

Symbol	Keywords	(T)HAR	Special names
i	<i>tea, see</i>	(tns) higher high front unr	
ɪ	<i>tip, sing</i>	(lax) lower high front unr	small cap 'i'
eɨ	<i>pay, deign</i>	(tns) higher mid front unr	
ɛ	<i>pet, head</i>	(lax) lower mid front unr	epsilon
æ	<i>pat, dad</i>	(lax?) lower low front unr	ash or digraph 'a''e'
ɑ	<i>calm, pot</i>	(tns) lower low back unr	script 'a' or back 'a'
oʷ	<i>toe, row</i>	(tns) higher mid back rnd	
ʊ	<i>put, foot</i>	(lax) lower high back rnd	small cap 'u'
u	<i>food, prune</i>	(tns) higher high back rnd	
ʌ	<i>but, sung</i>	(lax) lower mid central unr	caret, wedge, turned 'v'
aj	<i>buy, bite</i>	(tense) lower low central unr	
aw	<i>cow, house</i>		
ɔɨ	<i>boy</i>	(tense) lower mid <b>back</b> rnd	
ajɪ	<i>fire</i>		
awɪ	<i>hour</i>		
ɪɪ	<i>fear, beer</i>		
ɛɪ	<i>marry, bare</i>		
ʊɪ	<i>tour, mooring</i>		
ɔɪ	<i>sore, bore</i>		
ɑɪ	<i>car, bar</i>		(script 'a' + 'r')
ɜɪ	<i>bird, curry</i>		(turned epsilon + 'r')
ə		(lax) (higher?) mid central unr	schwa
əɪ	<i>butter</i>		

Notes: THAR = tenseness height advancement rounding; tns = tense; unr = unrounded; rnd = rounded;

- 1) These are very close Rogers' descriptions (p. 124) for Canadian English. I will [ɜɪ] for primary or secondary stressed syllables as I like to reserve schwa for the vowel that occurs only in weak, unstressed syllables. You can use [əɪ] instead if you like. The vowel symbols [ɜ ə ʌ] are defined a bit differently than implied by the IPA chart on p 336 of Rogers. Use the descriptions in my chart above.
- 2) The vowel transcribed as /ɑ/ is actually probably closer to /ɒ/ for most WCE. That is a tense lower low back **rounded** vowel. The symbol [ɑ] only shows up as first part of diphthongs and before [r]
- 3) Vowel quality of high and mid before /r/ is debatable and varies a lot from region to region. Most Cdn dialects (and many US) do not have a distinction between tense and lax vowels in this environment. I think the vowel qualities of 'fear' and 'bare' are more like ['fɪɪ] and ['beɪɪ] than ['fɪɑ] and [be.ɪ] and 'bore' is tussup between ['tɔɪ] and ['tɔɪ] (similarly 'tour' is somewhere between ['tʊɪ] and ['tʊɪ]. For maximum consistency with the text, use the lax vowel symbols in the chart above in broad transcription of WCE.
- 4) There are several flavors of weak vowels. In addition to schwa / ə / , there is a very short, somewhat higher version of /ɪ/ that I will sometimes transcribe as /ɪ/ or as /ɪ̃/. There is also a weak version of /i/ that I will often transcribe as /ɨ/ or as /ɨ̃/ or as /ɨ̃/. You can call these *weak small cap 'I'* and *weak 'i'*.