

The word *vowel* comes from the Latin word *vocalis*, meaning "speaking", because in most languages words and thus speech are not possible without vowels.

In phonetics, a vowel is a sound in spoken language that is characterized by an open configuration of the vocal tract so that there is no build-up of air pressure above the glottis. This contrasts with consonants, which are characterized by a constriction or closure at one or more points along the vocal tract. A vowel is also understood to be syllabic: an equivalent open but non-syllabic sound is called a semivowel.

According to O' Connor (1980), vowels are made by voiced air pressing through different mouth shapes. The difference in the mouth shapes are caused by different positions of the tongue and of the lips.

In all languages, vowels form the nucleus or peak of syllables, whereas consonants form the onset and coda. However, some languages, as in English, also allow other sounds to form the nucleus of a syllable, such as the syllabic *l* in the word *table*.

Based on the above definitions, many sounds might be identified as vowels which function as consonants in speech. For example, the word "yes", the initial [j] is phonetically a vowel according to the definition above. In the phonological system of English, however, the [j] is in a typical consonant position. Similarly, there are sounds which are phonetically consonants which under some circumstances do act as syllable nuclei; a typical example would be the use of "syllabic [l]" in the word "little".

Vowel's quality is determined by the articulatory features that distinguish different vowels in a language. The primary and secondary cardinal vowel system developed originally by Daniel Jones describes vowels in terms of three common features **height** (vertical dimension), **backness** (horizontal dimension) and **roundedness** (lip position). These three parameters are indicated in the schematic IPA (The International Phonetic Alphabet) vowel diagram below, (Leadefoged, 1975). There are, however, still more possible features of vowel quality, such the **velum**

position (nasality), **type of vocal fold vibration** (phonation), and **tongue root position**.

THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (2005)

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Epi-glottal	Glottal
Nasal	m	ɱ	n			ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ			
Plosive	p b	ɸ β	t d			ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ		ʔ	ʔ̚
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	ħ̥ ʕ̥	h ɦ
Approximant		ʋ	ɹ			ɻ	j	ɰ				
Trill	ʙ		r						ʀ		ʀ̥	
Tap, Flap		ⱱ	ɾ			ɽ						
Lateral fricative			ɬ ɮ			ɮ̥	ɬ̥	ɮ̥				
Lateral approximant			l			ɭ	ʎ	ʟ				
Lateral flap			ɺ			ɻ̥						

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a modally voiced consonant, except for murmured *f*. Shaded areas denote articulations judged to be impossible. Light grey letters are unofficial extensions of the IPA.

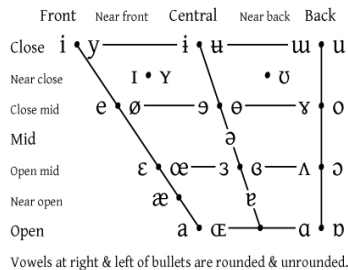
CONSONANTS (NON-PULMONIC)

Anterior click releases (require posterior stops)	Voiced implosives	Ejectives
ɔ Bilabial fricated	ɓ Bilabial	' Examples:
ɮ Laminar alveolar fricated ("dental")	ɗ Dental or alveolar	ɓ' Bilabial
ɮ̥ Apical (post)alveolar abrupt ("retroflex")	ɗ' Dental or alveolar	ɮ' Dental or alveolar
ɮ̥ Laminar postalveolar abrupt ("palatal")	ɠ Velar	ɠ' Velar
ɮ̥ Lateral alveolar fricated ("lateral")	ɣ Uvular	ɣ' Alveolar fricative

CONSONANTS (CO-ARTICULATED)

- M Voiceless labialized velar approximant
- W Voiced labialized velar approximant
- ɥ Voiced labialized palatal approximant
- ɕ Voiceless palatalized postalveolar (alveolo-palatal) fricative
- ʑ Voiced palatalized postalveolar (alveolo-palatal) fricative
- ɧ Simultaneous x and f (disputed)
- kp̚ t̚s̚ Affricates and double articulations may be joined by a tie bar

VOWELS



SUPRASEGMENTALS

- ' Primary stress
- '' Extra stress
- ˌ Secondary stress [ˌfoʊnəˈtʃən]
- eː Long
- eˑ Half-long
- e Short
- ˙ Syllable break
- ˘ Linking (no break)
- INTONATION
- ˊ Minor (foot) break
- ˋ Major (intonation) break
- ↗ Global rise
- ↘ Global fall

TOPE

- Level tones
- ˥ Top
- ˦ High
- ˧ Mid
- ˨ Low
- ˩ Bottom
- Tone terracing
- ˥˥ Upstep
- ˥˩ Downstep
- Contour-tone examples:
- ˥˩˥ Rising
- ˥˩˨ Falling
- ˥˩˧ High rising
- ˥˩˨˩ High falling
- ˥˩˨˩˥ Low falling
- ˥˩˨˩˥˩ Peaking
- ˥˩˨˩˥˩˥ Dipping

DIACRITICS

Diacritics may be placed above a symbol with a descender, as *ɲ̥*. Other IPA symbols may appear as diacritics to represent phonetic detail: ʰ (fricative release), ʙʰ (breathy voice), ʔ̚ (glottal onset), ʔ̚ (epenthetic schwa), ʔ̚ (diphthongization).

SYLLABICITY & RELEASES	PHONATION	PRIMARY ARTICULATION	SECONDARY ARTICULATION
ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Syllabic	ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Dental
ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Voicless or Slack voice	ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Labialized
ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Modal voice or Stiff voice	ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Palatalized
ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Breathy voice	ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Velarized
ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Creaky voice	ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Pharyngealized
ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Strident	ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Velarized or pharyngealized
ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Linguolabial	ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Mid-centralized
ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Lowered (β is a bilabial approximant)	ɲ̥ ɲ̥	Raised (ɲ̥ is a voiced alveolar non-sibilant fricative)

Height refers to either the vertical position of the tongue relative to the roof of the mouth or the aperture of the jaw. In high vowels, such as [i] and [u], the tongue is positioned high in the mouth, whereas in low vowels, such as [a], the tongue is positioned low in the mouth. The IPA identifies seven different vowel heights, although no known language distinguishes all seven, which are: close vowel (high vowel), near-close vowel, close-mid vowel, mid vowel, open-mid vowel, near-open vowel and open vowel (low vowel).

Backness on the other hand, refers to the horizontal tongue position during the articulation of a vowel relative to the back of the mouth. In front vowels, such as [i], the tongue is positioned forward in the mouth, whereas in back vowels, such as [u], the tongue is positioned towards the back of the mouth. The IPA identifies five different degrees of vowel backness, although no known language distinguishes all five: front vowel, near-front vowel, central vowel, near-back vowel and back vowel.

Finally, roundedness refers to whether the lips are rounded or not. In most languages, roundedness is a reinforcing feature of mid to high back vowels, and not distinctive. Usually, the higher a back vowel, the more intense the rounding is.

Vowel sounds have been symbolized by different transcription systems. Some of them are appropriate for most speakers of American English and others for most speakers of British English (Christophersen, 1973). In this study different systems will be utilized.

American English Vowels

American English is the form of English used by people in the United States. The English vowel letters are *a, e, i, o, u*, and sometimes *y*, but the vowel sounds are more numerous. They are characterized by the continuous sounds they make as the main part of any syllable. Certain vowel sounds appear only in one or more regional dialects, but the following, are the vowel sounds most usually encountered in Standard American English:

The *A* in *fat*

The *AH* in *father*

The *AI* in *fate*

The *OO* in *fool*

The *OU* in *found*

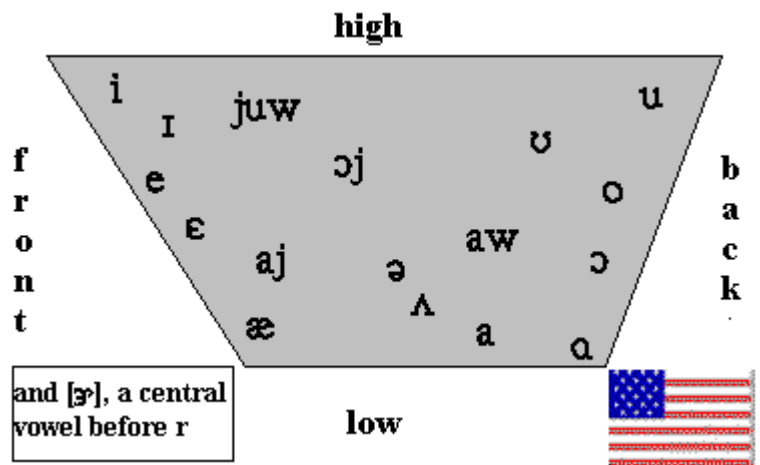
The *U* in *foot*

The *AW* in *fawn*
 The *E* in *fen*
 The *EE* in *feet*
 The *EI* in *fight*
 The *I* in *fizz*

The *UH* in *flood*
 The *UHR* in *fur*
 The unstressed *uh* in *sofa*
 The *O* in *foe*
 The *OI* in *foil*

H, *w*, and *y* are sometimes called *semivowels*, and they, like *r*, modify or change the sound of an immediately preceding *vowel sound*.

The above American English vowels are plotted according to the point of primary obstruction by the tongue in the articulation of the sound. "Low" refers not only to the position of the tongue but the jaw as well and the quadrilateral is presented below, (Dillon, 2003).



	b__d	IPA		b__d	IPA
1	bead	i:	9	bode	oʊ
2	bid	ɪ	10	bood	u:
3	bayed	eɪ	11	bud	ʌ
4	bed	ɛ	12	bird	ɜr
5	bad	æ	13	bide	aɪ
6	bod(y)	ɔr	14	bowed	aʊ
7	bawd	ɔr	15	Boyd	ɔɪ
8	budd(hist)	ʊ			

African American English Dialect

African American English "AAE" is one name for a collection of varieties (ways of speaking) characteristically used by African Slave Descendants in North America. Over the years a number of names have been used, and a number of different varieties or dialects have introduced. Some of the more common terms include "Black English", "Ebonics", "Black Vernacular English "BEV", and "African American Vernacular English" AAVE".

The traits of AAVE that separate it from Standard American English include:

- grammatical structures traceable to West African languages;
- changes in pronunciation along definable patterns, many of which are found in creoles and dialects of other populations of West African descent (but which also emerge in English dialects uninfluenced by West African languages, such as Newfoundland English);
- distinctive slang; and
- differences in the use of tenses.

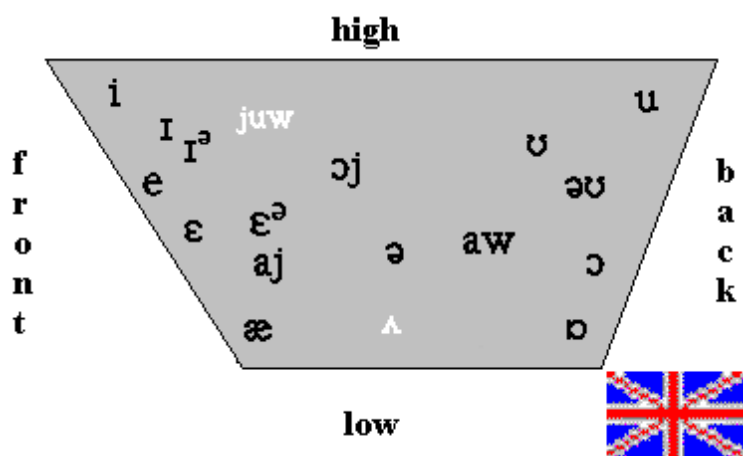
AAVE has also contributed to Standard American English (SAE) words of African origin ("gumbo", "goober", "yam", "banjo", "bogus") and slang expressions such as ("cool," "hip," "hep cat").

As far as the phonological features are concerned, the main differences between AAVE and SAE are listed below:

- Reduction of certain diphthong forms to monophthongs, in particular, [aɪ] to [a] and [ɔɪ] to [o:]. For example, "boy" pronounced as [b o:].
- Pronunciation of /ɛ/ and /ɪ/ both as /ɪ/ before nasal consonants, making *pen* and *pin* homonyms.
- Pronunciation of /ɪ/ and /i:/ both as /ɪ/ before 'l', making *feel* and *fill* homonyms.
- Lowering of /ɪ/ to /ɛ/ or /æ/ before /ŋ/ causing pronunciations such as *theng/thang* for *thing*, *thenk/thank* for *think*, *reng/rang* for *ring* etc.

Vowels of British English

Peter Ladefoged's has summary of the British English vowels along with quadrilateral of samples of British vowels as posted by Dillon, (2003) is illustrated below.



	b__d	IPA		b__d	IPA
1	bead	i:	11	booed	u:
2	bid	ɪ	12	bud	ʌ
3	bayed	eɪ	13	bird	ɜ:
4	bed	ɛ	14	bide	aɪ
5	bad	æ	15	bowed	aʊ
6	bard	ɑ:	16	Boyd	ɔɪ
7	bod(y)	ɒ	17	beer	ɪə
8	bawd	ɔ:	18	bare	ɛə
9	budd(hist)	ʊ	19	byre	aə
10	bode	əʊ	20	boor	ʊə

Scottish English Dialect

Scottish Standard English (SSE) is the form of the English language used in Scotland. It is normally used in formal, non-fictional written texts in Scotland. The standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation of Scottish English tend to follow the style of the Oxford English Dictionary.

Although pronunciation features of SSE vary among speakers, Wells (1982) has listed some of the common features as follows:

- Vowel length is usually regarded as being non-phonemic, but is a crucial aspect of the accent (Scobbie et al. 1999). It most clearly affects /i/, /u/ and /ae/. Predictable short vowel duration gives many Scottish accents a distinctive "clipped" pronunciation before two classes of consonants, namely nasals, for example *spoon* [spun] and voiced stops, especially /d/, e.g. *brood* /brud/. This is generally the same as in the Scots language, but the latter includes minimal pairs for /ae/ e.g. *gey*, "very" vs. /a:e/ e.g. *guy*. Vowel length is nearly phonemic in SSE because when open syllable verbs are suffixed they remain long, thus vowel length clearly distinguishes e.g. *crude* vs. *crewed*, *need* vs. *kneed*, and *side* vs. *sighed*.
- SSE usually distinguishes between [ɛ]-[ɪ]-[ʌ] before [r] in *herd-bird-curd*, in Received Pronunciation these have merged into [ɜɪ].
- Many varieties contrast /o/ and /ɔ/ before [r] as in *hoarse* and *horse*.
- SSE contrasts [o: r] and [u: r], as in *shore* and *pour* vs. *sure* and *poor*.
- *Fool* and *full* have [u] or [ʊ] or [y] in SSE where RP (Received Pronunciation) differentiates.
- SSE has the cot-caught merger, so that *cot* and *caught* are both pronounced with [ɔ].

American and British English pronunciation differences

In this section the main differences between General American (GAm) and British Received Pronunciation (RP) will be discussed:

- GAm has fewer vowel distinctions before intervocalic [ɹ] than RP; for many GAm speakers, unlike RP, *merry*, *marry* and *Mary* are homonyms; *mirror* rhymes with *nearer*, and *furry* rhymes with *hurry*. However, some eastern American accents, such as the Boston accent, have the same distinctions as in RP.
- For some RP speakers (upper class), unlike in GAm, some or all of *tire*, *tower*, and *tar* are homonyms; this reflects the merger of the relevant vowels; similarly the pour-poor merger is common in RP but not in GAm.
- RP has three open back vowels, where GAm has only two or even one. Most GAm speakers use the same vowel for RP "short O" [ɒ] as for RP "broad A" [ɑː] (the father-bother merger); many also use the same vowel for these as for RP [ɔː] (the cot-caught merger).
- For Americans without the cot-caught merger, the *lot-cloth split* results in [ɔː] in some words which now have [ɒ] in RP.
- The trap-bath split has resulted in RP having "broad A" [ɑː] where GAm has "short A" [æ], in most words where A is followed by either [n] followed by another consonant, or [s], [f], or [θ] (e.g. *plant*, *pass*, *laugh*, *path*). However, many British accents, such as most Northern English accents, agree with GAm in having short A in these words, although it is usually phonetically [a] rather than [æ].
- RP has a marked degree of contrast of length between "short" and "long" vowels (The long vowels being the diphthongs, and [i:], [u:], [ɜ:], [ɔ:], [ɑ:]). In GAm this contrast is much less evident, and the IPA length symbol (:) is often omitted. American phoneticians often prefer the characterizations "tense"/"lax" or "checked"/"free" rather than "short"/"long".

- The "long O" vowel (as in *boat*) is realized differently: GAm pure [o:] or diphthongized [oʊ]; RP central first element[əʊ]. However there is considerable variation in this vowel on both sides of the Atlantic.
- The distinction between unstressed /ɪ/ and /ə/ (e.g. *roses* vs *Rosa's*) is often lost in GAm. In RP it is retained, in part because it helps avoid nonrhottic homonyms; e.g. *batted* vs *battered* as ['bætɪd] vs ['bætəd]. It is, however, lost in Australian English, which is also non-rhotic.

The following tables list words pronounced differently in American English (**AmE**) as appose to British English (**BrE**) but spelled the same.

BrE	AmE	Words
/æ/	/ɑ/	annato, Bangladesh ^{A2} , Caracas , chianti ^{A2} , Datsun , Galapagos , Gdansk , grappa ^{A2} , gula ^{A2} , Hanoi ^{A2} , Jan (male name, e.g. Jan Palach), Kant , kebab, Las (placenames, e.g. Las Vegas), Latvia , mishmash ^{A2} , Mombasa , Natasha, Nissan , Pablo, pasta, Picasso ^{A2} , ralentando, San ^{A2} (names outside USA; e.g. San Juan), Slovak ^{A2} , Sri Lanka ^{A2} , Vivaldi , wigwam ^{A2} , Yasser (And A in many other foreign names and loanwords)
/i:/	/ɛ/	aesthete, an(a)esthetize, breve ^{A2} , catenary ^{A2} , Daedalus , devolution ^{A2,B2} , ecumenical ^{B2} , epoch ^{A2} , evolution ^{A2,B2} , febrile, Hephaestus , lever ^{A2} , methane, Oedipus ^{A2} , (o)estrus, penalize, predecessor ^{A2} , pyrethrin ^{A2} , senile ^{A2}
/ɒ/	/oʊ/	Aeroflot , compost, homosexual ^{B2} , Interpol , Lod , pogrom, polka ^{B2} , produce (noun), Rosh Hashanah , scone ^{A2,B2} , shone, sojourn, troll ^{B2} , yoghurt
/ɑː/	/æ/	(Excluding trap-bath split words) banana, Java , khaki, morale, Nevada ^{A2} , scenario, soprano ^{A2} ,

/ɛ/	/i/	tiara Cecil ^{A2,B2} , crematorium ^{A2} , cretin, depot, inherent ^{B2} , leisure, medieval ^{A2} , reconnoitre ^{A2} , zebra ^{B2} , zenith ^{A2,B2}
/æ/	/eɪ/	compatriot, patriot ^{B2} , patronise, phalanx, plait, repatriate, Sabine , satrap, satyr ^{A2}
/ɪ/	/aɪ/	dynasty, housewifery, idyll, livelong ^{A2} , long-lived ^{A2} , privacy ^{B2} , simultaneous, vitamin. Also the suffix -ization. See also -ine .
/z/	/s/	Aussie ^{A2} , blouse, complaisant ^{A2} , crescent, erase, Glasgow , parse, valise. Also trans- ^{A2,B2} (in some words)
/ɑː/	/eɪ/	amen, charade ^{B2} , cicada, gala ^{A2} , promenade, pro rata, tomato, stratum
/əʊ/	/ɑ/	codify, goffer, phonetician, processor, progress (noun), sloth ^{A2,B2} , unwonted, wrath
BrE	AmE	Words
/ʌ/	/ɑ/	accomplice, accomplish, colander ^{B2} , compass ^{A2} , constable ^{B2} , Lombardy , monetary ^{A2} , -monger ^{A2}
/ɒ/	/ʌ/	hovel ^{A2,B2} , hover. Also the strong forms of these function words : of ^{A2} , from ^{A2} , want ^{A2} , was ^{A2} , what ^{A2}
(sounded)	(silent)	coyote ^{A2} , herb ^{A2} (plant), homage ^{A2} , Knossos ^{B2} , salve, solder
/ɑː/	/ə/	Berkeley , Berkshire , clerk, Derby , Hertford . (The only AmE word with <er> = [ɑɪ] is <i>sergeant</i>).
/aɪ/	/i/	either ^{A2,B2} , geyser, neither ^{A2,B2} , Pleiades . See also -ine .
/iː/	/aɪ/	albino, migraine ^{B2} . Also the prefixes anti- ^{A2} , multi- ^{A2} , semi- ^{A2} in loose compounds (e.g. in <i>anti-</i> <i>establishment</i> , but not in <i>antibody</i>). See also -ine .
/ə/	/ɑ/	hexagon, octagon, paragon, pentagon, phenomenon.
/iː/	/eɪ/	eta, beta, quay ^{A2} , theta, zeta
/aɪ/	/ɪ/	butyl ^{B2} , diverge, minority ^{A2,B2} , primer (schoolbook). See also -ine .

/ɛ/	/eɪ/	ate ^{B2} ("et" is nonstandard in America), melee, chaise longue
/ɜɪz/	/us/	Betelgeuse , chanteuse, chartreuse ^{A2} , masseuse
/eɪ/	/æ/	apricot ^{A2} , dahlia, digitalis, patent ^{A2,B2}
(silent)	(sounded)	medicine. See also -ary -ery -ory -bury, -berry
/ɒ/	/ə/	Amos , Enoch , restaurant ^{A2}
/ʃ/	/ʒ/	Asia ^{B2} , Persia ^{B2} , version ^{B2}
/ə/	/oʊ/	borough, thorough (see also -ory and -mony)
/ɪ/	/ə/	chirrup, squirrel, stirrup
/si:/	/ʃ/	cassia, Cassius ^{A2} , hessian
/u:/	/ju/	coupon ^{A2} , fuchsine , Houston ^{B2}
/u:/	/ʊ/	boulevard, snooker , woof ^{A2} (weaving)
/ɔɪ(ɹ)/	/ə/	record (noun), stridor ^{A2,B2}
/ɔɪ/	/ɑ/	launch, salt ^{B2}
/ɜɪ(ɹ)/	/ʊ/	connoisseur ^{A2} , entrepreneur ^{A2}
/ɜɪ/	/oʊ/	föhn ^{B2} , Möbius ^{B2}
/eɪ/	/i/	deity ^{A2,B2} , Helene
/ju:/	/w/	jaguar, Nicaragua
/zi:/	/ʒ/	Frasier, Parisian
/ɒ/	/æ/	wrath
/ɑɪ/	/ət/	Nougat
BrE	AmE	Words
/ɑɪ/	/ɔ/	Utah
/ɑɪ/	/ɔɹ/	quark ^{A2,B2}
/æ/	/ɛ/	femme fatale ^{A2}
/æz/	/eɪs/	basil ^{A2} (plant)
/aɪ/	/ɔɪ/	coyote
/aɪ/	/eɪ/	Isaiah
/aʊ/	/u/	nous ^{A2}
/ɔɪ/	/æ/	falcon
/ð/	/θ/	booth

/di:/	/dʒi/	cordiality
/dʒ/	/gdʒ/	suggest ^{A2}
/ə(ɹ)/	/ɑɹ/	<u>Madagascar</u> ^{A2}
/ə(ɹ)/	/jə-/	figure
/ɛ/	/ɑ/	envelope ^{A2,B2}
/ə/	/æ/	trapeze
/ɛ/	/ə/	<u>Kentucky</u>
/ə/	/eɪ/	hurricane ^{B2}
/ʃ/	/sk/	schedule ^{B2}
/ɜɪ(ɹ)/	/ɛɹ/	err ^{A2}
/eɪ/	/ət/	tourniquet
/əʊ/	/ɑt/	Huguenot
/əʊ/	/aʊ/	Moscow
/əʊ/	/u/	brooch ^{A2}
/ɪ/	/i/	pitta ^{B2}
/i:/	/ɪ/	been ^{B2}
/i:ʃ/	/ɪtʃ/	niche ^{B2}
/jɜ:/	/u/	milieu
/ju:/	/u/	barracuda (see also yod-dropping under Accent)
/s/	/z/	asthma
/t/	/θ/	Anthony ^{A2,B2}
/ts/	/z/	piazza
/ʊ/	/ɪ/	kümmel
/ʊ/	/ʌ/	brusque
BrE	AmE	Words
/u:/	/aʊ/	route ^{A2}
/u:/	/oʊ/	cantaloup(e)
/ʌ/	/oʊ/	covert ^{A2,B2}
/z/	/ʃ/	Dionysius
/zi:/	/ʃ/	transient

Spelling	BrE	AmE IPA	Notes
barrage	'bæɹ.ɑ:ɹ	(1) bəɹ'ɑ:ɹ (2) 'bæɹ.ɪdɹ	The AmE pronunciations are for distinct senses (1) "sustained weapon-fire" vs (2) "dam, barrier" (Compare <i>garage</i> below.)
boehmeite	(1) 'bɜ:maɪt (2) 'bəʊmaɪt	(1) 'beɪmaɪt (2) 'boʊmaɪt	The first pronunciations approximate German [ø] (spelled <ö> or <oe>); the second ones are anglicized.
<i>bouquet</i>	'bu:keɪ	boʊ'keɪ	
boyar	(1) 'bɔɪ.ɑ: (2) bəʊ'jɑ:	(1) boʊ'jɑ: (2) 'bɔɪ.jə	
buoy	'bɔɪ	'bu.i	The U.S. pronunciation would be unrecognised in the UK. The British pronunciation occurs in America, more commonly for the verb than the noun, still more in derivatives <i>buoyant</i> , <i>buoyancy</i> .
<i>cadre</i>	(1) 'kæd.ə(ɹ) (2) 'kæd.ɹə	'kæd.ɹi	
<i>canton</i>	kæn'tu:n	(1) kæn'tɑn (2) kæn'toʊn	difference is only in military sense "to quarter soldiers"
<i>febrile</i>	'fi:b.raɪl	(1) 'fɛb.rɪl (2) 'fɛb.rəl	The BrE pronunciation occurs in AmE
<i>fracas</i>	'frækɑ:	(1) 'freɪkəs (2) 'frækəs	The BrE plural is French <i>fracas</i> /'frækɑ:z/; the AmE plural is anglicized <i>fracases</i>
Spelling	BrE	AmE IPA	Notes
garage	(1) 'gæɹɪdɹ (2) 'gæɹɑ:ɹ	gəɹ'ɑ:ɹ	The AmE reflects French stress difference . The two BrE pronunciations may represent distinct meanings for some speakers; for example, "a subterranean garage for a car" (1) vs "a petrol garage" (2). (Compare <i>barrage</i> above.)
glacier	(1) 'glæsiə (2) 'gleɪsiə	'gleɪʃə	
<i>hygienic</i>	haɪ'dʒi:nɪk	haɪdʒi'ɛnɪk	
jalousie	(1) ʒælʊ'zi:	'dʒæləsi	

	(2) 'ʒælʊzi:		
<u>lapsang</u>	'læpsæŋ	:lɑpsɑŋ	
<u>souchong</u>	su:ʃʊŋ	'suʃɑŋ	
<u>lasso</u>	lə'su:	'læsoʊ	The BrE pronunciation is common in AmE
<u>lieutenant</u>	(1) lɛf'tɛnənt (2) lə'tɛnənt	lu'tɛnənt	The 2nd British pronunciation is restricted to the <u>Royal Navy</u> . Standard Canadian pronunciation is the same as the British.
<u>lychee</u>	:laɪ'tʃi:	'litʃi	Spelling <i>litchi</i> has pronunciation /'lɪtʃi(:)/
<u>Molière</u>	'mɒl.i.ɛə	moʊl'jɛɹ	
<u>oblique</u>	əb'li:k	əb'laɪk	AmE is as BrE except in military sense "advance at an angle"
<u>penchant</u>	pɑ̃ʃɑ̃	'pɛntʃənt	The AmE pronunciation is anglicized; the BrE is French.
<u>penult</u>	pɛ'nʌlt	(1) 'pɪnʌlt (2) pɪ'nʌlt	
<u>premier</u>	(1) 'prɛmjə (2) 'pɹɛmɪə	(1) 'prɪmɪɹ (2) prɪm'ɪɹ	
<u>première</u>	'pɹɛmɪɛə	(1) prɪm'ɪɹ (2) prɪm'jɛɹ	
pelling	BrE	AmE IPA	Notes
<u>provost</u>	'pɹɒvəst	(1) 'pɹoʊvoʊst (2) 'pɹoʊvəst	The BrE pronunciation also occurs in AmE
<u>quinine</u>	'kwɪni:n	(1) 'kwaɪnaɪn (2) 'kwɪnaɪn	
<u>resource</u>	(1) ɹɪ'zɔ:ɪs (2) ɹɪ'sɔ:ɪs	'ɹɪsɔ:ɪs	
<u>veille</u>	ɹɪ'væli:	'ɹɛvəli	
<u>slough</u>	slaʊ	slu	sense "bog"; in metaphorical sense

			"gloom", the BrE pronunciation is common in AmE. Homograph "cast off skin" is /slʌf/ everywhere.
Tunisia	Tju:'nɪziə	(1) tu'niʒə (2) tu'niʃə	
<i>untoward</i>	:ʌn.tə'wɔ:d	ʌn'tɔ:d	
vase	vɑ:z	(1) veɪs (2) veɪz	The BrE pronunciation also occurs in AmE
<u>z</u> (the letter)	'zɛd	'zi:	The spelling of this letter as a word corresponds to the pronunciation: thus Commonwealth (including Canadian) <i>zed</i> and American <i>zee</i>

7. Conclusions

This study outlines the differences between **American English**, the form of the English language spoken in the United States, and **British English**, the form of English used across the United Kingdom. Although **British and American English** are terms used when describing formal *written* English used in the United Kingdom and United state respectively, the forms of *spoken* English used in both countries vary considerably from one area to another. The Scottish and African American dialects presented in this study are a good example of such a variation. The study has also pointed out that even though spoken American and British English are generally mutually intelligible, there are enough differences (listed in details) to occasionally cause awkward misunderstandings or even a complete failure to communication.

References

- Abercrombie, D. (1979). "The accents of Standard English in Scotland." In A. J. Aitken & T. McArthur (eds.).
- Christophersen, P (1973), *An English Phonetic Course*, Longman Group Limited.
- Dillard, J. L. (1972). *Black English: Its History and Usage in the United States*. Random House.

Hughes, A., Trudgill, P. & Watt, D. (Eds.) (2005). *English Accents and Dialects (4th Ed.)*, London:Arnold.

Ladefoged, Peter, (1982) *A Course in Phonetics*, second edition, HBJ, Inc.

Ladefoged, Peter, (1995), *Elements of Acoustic Phonetics*. University of Chicago.

O'Connor J. D., (1980), *Better English Pronunciation*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Peters, Pam (2004). *The Cambridge Guide to English Usage*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Rickford, John (1999). *African American Vernacular English*. Blackwell Publishers.

Stevens, Kenneth N. (2000). Toward a model for lexical access based on acoustic landmarks and distinctive features. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 111 (4), 1872-1891

Scobbie, James M., Nigel Hewlett, and Alice Turk (1999). "Standard English in Edinburgh and Glasgow: The Scottish Vowel Length Rule revealed." In Paul Foulkes & Gerard J. Docherty (eds.).

Wells, John C. (1982). *Accents of English*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Wells, John C. (2000). *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary*, 2nd ed.