

Unit 5a

Vowels (2)

The system of English vowels and diphthongs

Slides for the session of

Phonetics with Listening Practice (British)

held on

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English Department
Saarland University

/ˈɪŋ glɪʃ fə ˈnet ɪks ˈjuːn ɪt ˈfaɪv ˈeɪ/ (phonemic)

φων

Vowels (2)

Goals

Experiment

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Will heißen:

Ist *Dis* identisch mit *Es*?

Ist [ɐ] identisch mit [ɛ]?

i.e. is this rocket science, or not??

The goals of today's session are:

- 1 To give an overview of the system of vowel and diphthong phonemes in English

φωv

Vowels (2)

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Experiment

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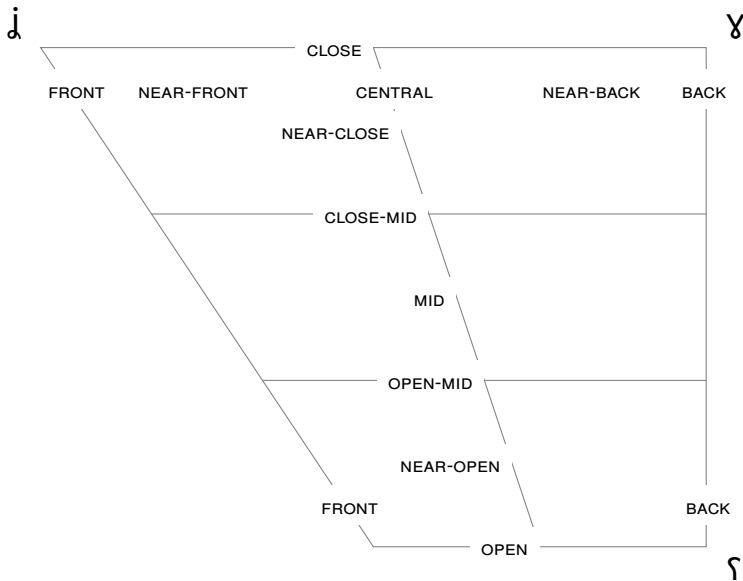
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- 4 To prepare the ground for a systematic comparison (next week) of the vowels and diphthongs of German, the Received Pronunciation of British English, General American English, and Australian English.

Vowel Quadrilateral



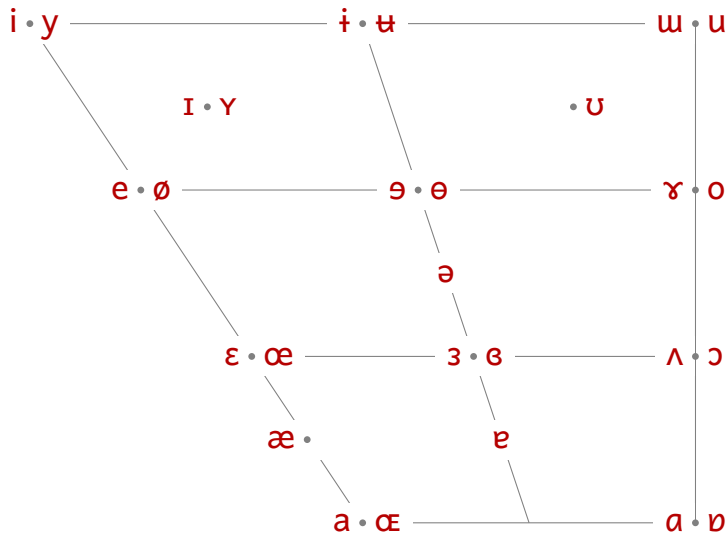
φωv

Vowels (2)

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Experiment

Cardinal Vowels



φων

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English short vowels: lexical sets



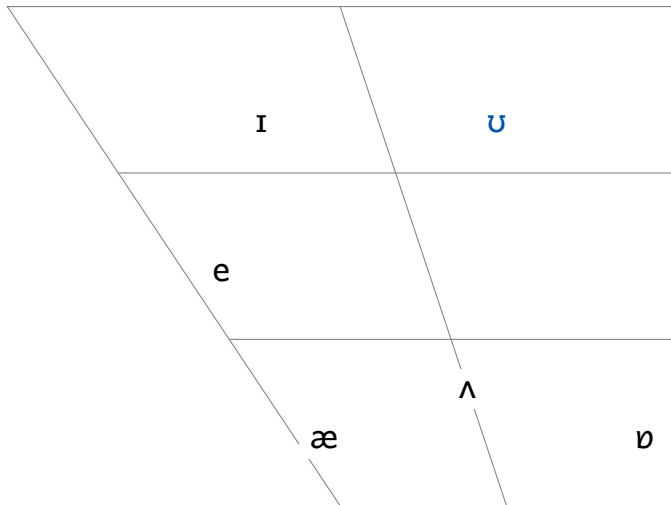
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English short vowels: phonemes



φων

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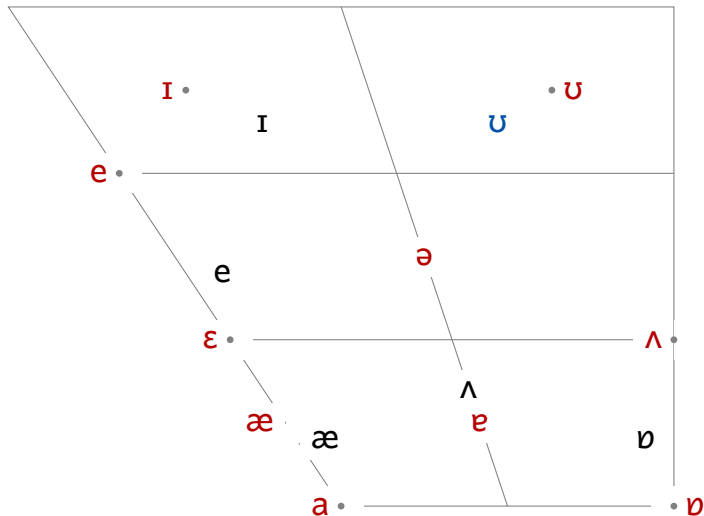
English short vowels: phonemes compared with cardinal vowels

φων

Vowels (2)

Goals

Experiment



English short vowels: examples

φωv

Vowels (2)

Goals

Experiment

pit	pet	pat	pot	putt	put
/pɪt/	/pet/	/pæt/	/pɒt/	/pʌt/	/pʊt/
[p ^h ɪt]	[p ^h ɛt]	[p ^h æt]	[p ^h ɒt]	[p ^h et]	[p ^h ʊt]

bit	bid	wick	wig	nip	nib	hiss	his
[bɪt]	[bɪd]	[wɪk]	[wɪg]	[nɪp]	[nɪb]	[hɪs]	[hɪz]

set	said	debt	dead	etch	edge	cess	says
[sɛt]	[sɛɪd]	[dɛt]	[dɛd]	[ɛtʃ]	[ɛdʒ]	[sɛs]	[sɛz]

fat	fad	back	bag	batch	badge	slap	slab
[fæt]	[fæd]	[bæk]	[bæg]	[bætʃ]	[bædʒ]	[slæp]	[slæb]

cop	cob	knot	nod	lock	log	hops	Hobbes
[k ^h ɒp]	[k ^h ɒb]	[nɒt]	[nɒd]	[lɒk]	[lɒg]	[hɒps]	[hɒbz]

cup	cub	duck	dug	fuss	fuzz	once	ones
[k ^h ɛp]	[k ^h ɛb]	[dɛk]	[dɛg]	[fes]	[fez]	[wɛns]	[we:nz]

put	bush	soot	foot	wool	stood	hood	good
[p ^h ʊt]	[buʃ]	[sut]	[fut]	[wʊl]	[stʊd]	[hʊd]	[gʊd]

English short vowels: more examples

kit	dress	strap	lot	strut	foot
/kɪt/	/dres/	/stræp/	/lɒt/	/strʌt/	/fut/
[k ^h ɪt]	[dɹ̩ɛs]	[str̩æp]	[lɒt]	[str̩ʌt]	[fut]

it fits him | big business stinks | Tim hit his shins |
/ɪt fɪts hɪm/ /bɪg 'bɪznɪs stɪŋks/ /*tɪm hɪt hɪz ʃɪnz/

let's get set | lead's heavy | chem sex isn't the same as cam sex |
/lets get set/ /ledz 'hevi/ /kem seks ɪz.nɪt ðə seɪm əz kæm seks/

the black cat tried to catch a rat | the back hatstand is for caps |
/ðə blæk kæt traɪd tu kætʃ ə ræt/ /ðə bæk 'hætstænd ɪz fə kæps/

I want to wander in the tropics | Don Johnson is on top |
/aɪ wɒnt tu 'wɒndəɪ ɪn ðə 'trɒpɪks/ /*dɒn *'dʒɒnsən ɪz ɒn tɒp/

cut up the tough stuff | it's lovely honey and butter |
/kʌt ʌp ðə tʌf stʌf/ /ɪts 'lʌvli 'hʌni ən 'bʌtə/

look, full of books | Cook took a look | Cook took Brook's rook |
/lʊk | fʊl əv buks/ /*kʊk tʊk ə lʊk/ /*kʊk tʊk *bruks rʊk/

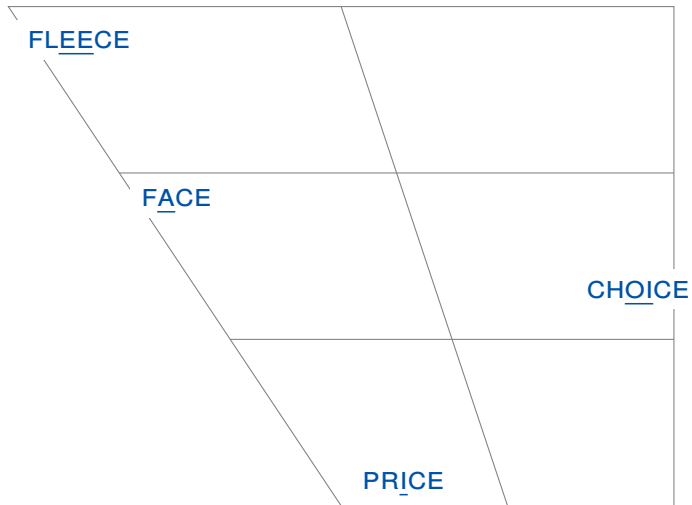
φων

Vowels (2)

Goals

Experiment

English long vowels and diphthongs (1): lexical sets



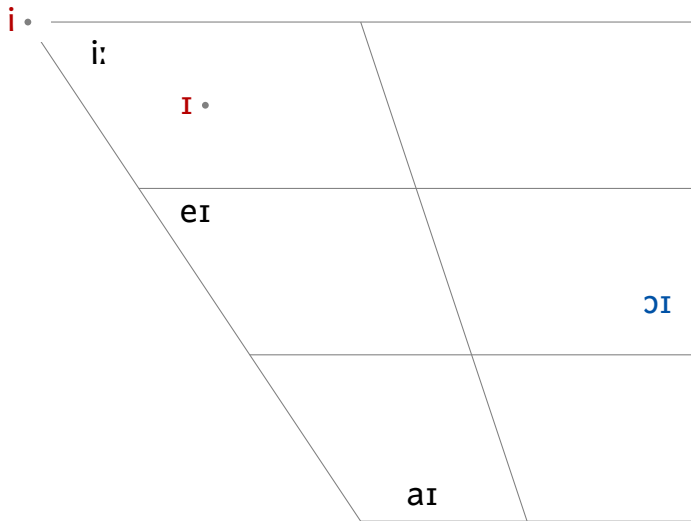
φωv

Vowels (2)

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English long vowels and diphthongs (1): phonemes



φων

Vowels (2)

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English long vowels and diphthongs (1): examples

fleece	face	price	choice
/fli:s/	/feɪs/	/praɪs/	/tʃɔɪs/
[fliːs]	[fɛɪs]	[pɹaɪs]	[tʃɔɪs]

fleece	fleas	heat	heed	belief	believe	cease	seize
[fli:s]	[fli:z]	[hi:t]	[hi:d]	[bɪ.'li:f]	[bɪ.'li:v]	[si:s]	[si:z]

face	phase	pace	pay	wait	wade	fate	fade
[feɪs]	[feɪz]	[p ^h eɪs]	[p ^h eɪ]	[weɪt]	[weɪd]	[feɪt]	[feɪd]

price	prize	ice	eyes	wright	ride	dice	die
[pɹaɪs]	[pɹaɪz]	[aɪs]	[aɪz]	[ɹ ^w aɪt]	[ɹ ^w aɪd]	[daɪs]	[daɪ]

choice	Choy's	Joyce	joys	quoit	coy	Boyce	boys
[tʃɔɪs]	[tʃɔɪz]	[dʒɔɪs]	[dʒɔɪz]	[kɔɪt]	[kɔɪ]	[bɔɪs]	[bɔɪz]

It's the bee's knees! Peachy keen! Squeaky clean! Lean and mean!
The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain. (K)no(w) pain, (k)no(w)
gain.

Try it – you'll like it! “I like Ike!” (“I like Pike!”) Mike's on Skype.
Noisy toys point to boys. (This one's been reported to the gender
police.)

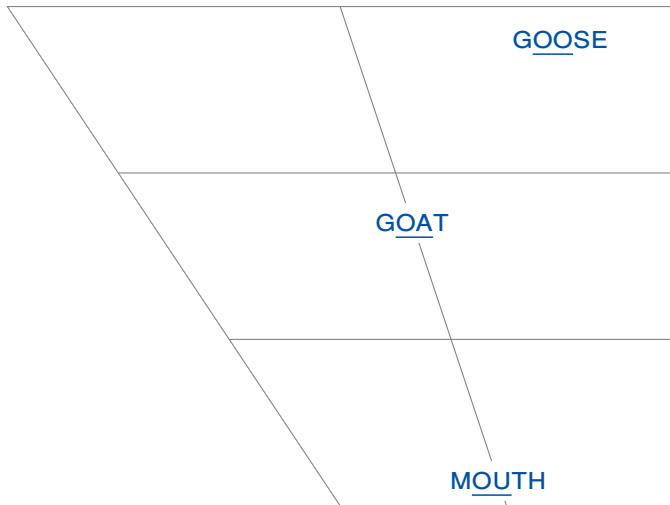
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English long vowels and diphthongs (2): lexical sets



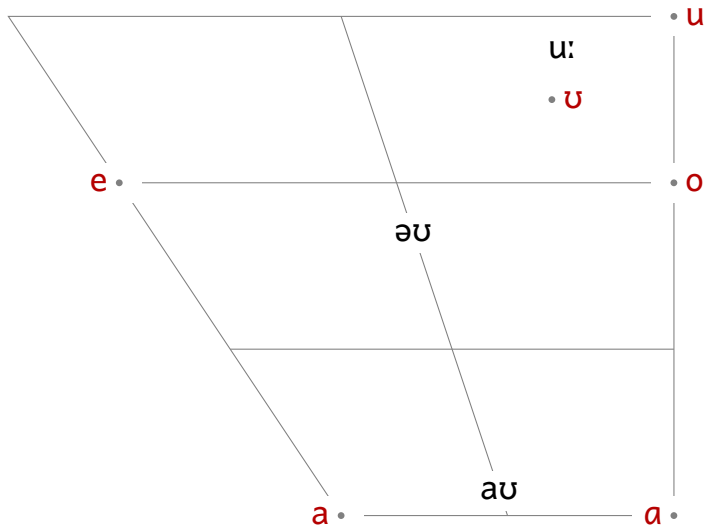
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English long vowels and diphthongs (2): phonemes



φων

Vowels (2)

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English long vowels and diphthongs (2): examples

φωv

Vowels (2)

Goals

Experiment

goose	goat	mouth			
/gu:s/	/gəʊt/	/maʊθ/			
[gʊːs]	[gəʊ̯t]	[maʊ̯θ]	[mɛ̯ʊ̯θ]	[mʌ̯ʊ̯θ]	

moot	mood	use (n.)	use (v.)	proof	prove
[mʊːt]	[mʊːd]	[jʊːs]	[jʊːz]	[pɹʊːf]	[pɹʊːv]

goat	goad	dose	doze	close (n.)	close (v.)
[gəʊ̯t]	[gəːʊ̯d]	[dəʊ̯s]	[dəːʊ̯z]	[kləʊ̯s]	[kləːʊ̯z]

mouth (n.)	mouth (v.)	house (n.)	house (v.)	bout	bough
[maʊ̯θ]	[maːʊ̯ð]	[haʊ̯s]	[haːʊ̯z]	[baʊ̯t]	[baːʊ̯]

Whose shoe's loose? Sue knew. Hugh's tune is due in June.

I suppose so. It's Flo's go. Oh no, don't go home alone.

How now, brown cow? Out out, town mouse! Clouds and showers.

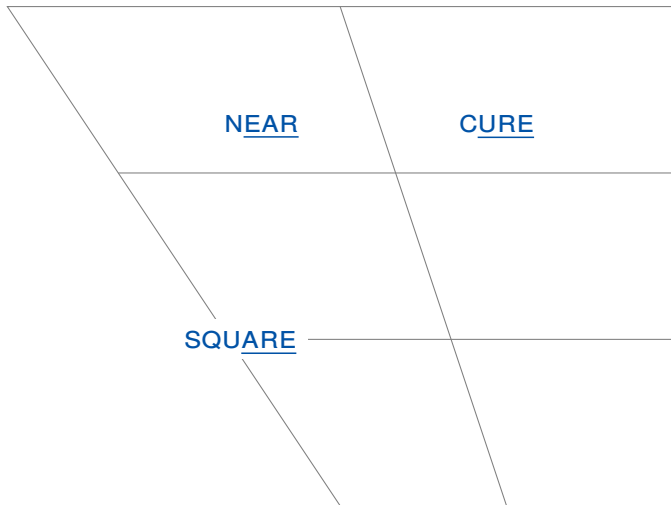
English long vowels and diphthongs (3): lexical sets

φωv

Vowels (2)

Goals

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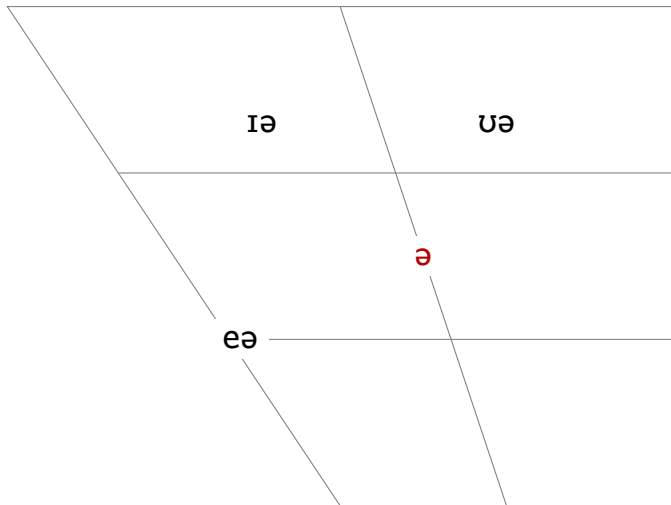
English long vowels and diphthongs (3): phonemes

φων

Vowels (2)

Goals

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English long vowels and diphthongs (3): examples

φωv

Vowels (2)

Goals

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near	square	cure	
/nɪə/	/skweə/	/kjʊə/	
[nɪ̯ə]	[skwɛ̯ə]	[kjʊ̯ə]	[kjɔ̯:]

pierce	peers	fierce	fear	weird	beard
[pʰɪəs]	[pʰɪ̯əz]	[fɪəs]	[fɪ̯ə]	[wɪ̯əd]	[br̩əd]

scarce	scares	there	their	they're	mayor	prayer
[skeəs]	[ske̯əz]	[ðɛ̯ə]	[ðɛ̯ə]	[ðɛ̯ə]	[me̯ə]	[pɹ̩ɛ̯ə]

your	you're	sure	pure	poor	Europe
[jʊ̯ə]	[jʊ̯ə]	[ʃʊ̯ə]	[pjʊ̯ə]	[pʰʊ̯ə]	[ˈjʊ̯ɹ̩.əp]

Here and there, we're aware of Peter Pears paring a pair of pears.

Here they're all ours; there they're all theirs.

This is your big “But you're Jean Ure, aren't you?” moment!

Are you sure (/ʃɔ̯:/ <Shaw>)? No, I'm Shakespeare!

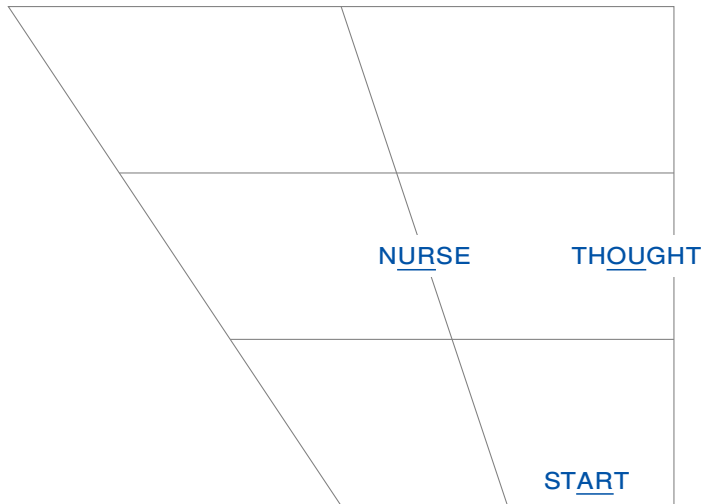
English long vowels and diphthongs (4): lexical sets

φωv

Vowels (2)

Goals

Experiment



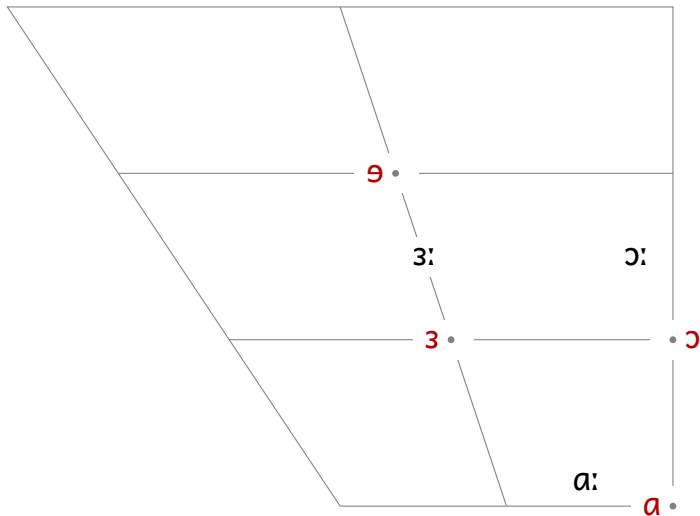
English long vowels and diphthongs (4): phonemes

φωv

Vowels (2)

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English long vowels and diphthongs (4): examples

φωv

Vowels (2)

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start	nurse	thought
/stɑ:t/	/nɜ:s/	/θɔ:t/
[stɑ̃ːt]	[nɜ̃ːa]	[θɔ̃ːt]

part	staff	starve	cars	bar	bra
[pʰɑ:t]	[stɑːf]	[stɑ:v]	[kɑ:z]	[bɑ:]	[bɪɑ:]

search	surge	merch	merge	fir	prefer	fur
[sɜːtʃ]	[sɜ:ɟʒ]	[mɜːtʃ]	[mɜ:ɟʒ]	[fɜ:]	[pɪˈfɜ:]	[fɜ:]

law	war	court	cord	course	cores	sauce	saws
[lɔ:]	[wɔ:]	[kɔ̃ːt]	[kɔ̃ːd]	[kɔ̃ːs]	[kɔ̃ːz]	[sɔ̃ːs]	[sɔ̃ːz]

Ma parks Pa's car | last dance, last chance | a large farmyard
Percy turned, when he heard the girl's words | birds searched the earth for
worms
you're four boards short | Lord Gordon caught naught | coarse gorse tore
your horse

English weak vowels: phonemes

φωv

Vowels (2)

Goals

Experiment

