

A E I O U Long and Short Vowel Sounds

When spelling words in English, a lot of Spanish speakers have problems with the vowel sounds, especially A E I because, for example, Spanish i sounds like the capital letter E in English. Let's look at the pronunciation of the A E I O U sounds in English.

So by now we've done a few sessions in the Pronunciation Clinic but today we're looking at the specific sounds used spelling words. We're going to focus on the 5 long and 5 short sounds, used for spelling words but also sounding out words as well.

Long Vowel Sounds - capital letters

Long vowel sounds are pronounced with the mouth open wider and the sound held for a longer duration.

A

- /eɪ/
- diphthong
- sounds like: train, make
- spelling: M A K E

E

- /i:/
- long ee sound
- sounds like: tree, please
- spelling: T E A

I

- /aɪ /
- diphthong
- sounds like: my, eye, try, lie
- Antonio Banderas ayayayaya - Cancion de Mariachi
- spelling: I S L A N D

O

- /ɔʊ/
- diphthong
- sounds like: phone, yellow, blow, oh no
- spelling: T R O M B O N E

U

-/yiu/

- need to pronounce the y sound
- sounds like: you, usual, uniform
- spelling: U K U L E L E

Short Vowel Sounds - phonics

Short vowel sounds are pronounced with a shorter duration with a more relaxed mouth position.

a

- /æ/

- cat, mat, bat

e

- /e/

- bed, red

i

- /i/

- sit, pink, pit

o

- /ɒ/

- pot, lot, clock

u

- /ʌ/

- luck, sum, run

Long VS Short

A

acorn, whale - cat, apple

E

eagle, leave - ten, egg

I

ice, lime - gift, insect

O

oatmeal, potato - dog, ostrich

U

unicorn, music - sun, umbrella

- 1) fuchsia - a bright pink
- 2) acquiesce - to comply without protest
- 3) liaison - a person who facilitates a working relationship between people
- 4) miniscule - very small
- 5) nauseous - a feeling of wanting to vomit
- 6) conscientious - diligent with work
- 7) mischievous - synonym for naughty
- 8) queue - a line of people

And that's the long and short vowels in a nutshell!