

AUSTRALIAN VOWEL-SOUNDS

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This is a list of the phonetic symbols needed to represent the 20 Australian vowel-sounds. A phonetic symbol is an absolute representation of a speech-sound. This means that a given phonetic symbol always has the same sound, whatever language or accent it's found in. It also means that to represent the different sounds of the same word in different accents, we need to use different phonetic symbols: TRAP Scottish English **trap**, English English **træp**, Australian English **trɛp**.

Simple vowels

KEYWORD	Scottish	AusEng	Definition	Examples
FLEECE	flis	fl ^ə i:s	Close front unrounded, long, on-glide.	<i>fleece, grieve, leap, mean, Pete.</i>
HAPP*Y*	hape	hɛpi:	Close front rounded, long.	<i>happy, ready, slimy, mufti, only.</i>
KIT	ket	kit	Close front unrounded, short.	<i>kit, pinch, is, misfit, in.</i>
DRESS	dres	dres	Close-mid front unrounded, short.	<i>dress, said, head, desert, when.</i>
TRAP	trap	trɛp	Open-mid front unrounded, short.	<i>trap, lag, bad, jacket, crass.</i>
NURSE	nɜrs	nə:s	Close-mid central rounded, long.	<i>nurse, word, birth, berth, first.</i>
COMM*A*	kɔmə	kɔmə	Mid central unrounded, short.	<i>comma, sofa, letter, china, arrive.</i>
BATH	bəθ	bɛ:θ	Open-mid central unrounded, long.	<i>bath, master, fast, after, park.</i>
STRUT	strʌt	stret	Open-mid central unrounded, short.	<i>strut, glove, rough, front, putt.</i>
GOOSE	gʊs	g ^ə u:s	Close back rounded, long, on-glide.	<i>goose, smooth, shoe, through, threw.</i>
FOOT	fʊt	fʊt	Near-close back rounded, short.	<i>foot, good, pudding, push, should.</i>
THOUGHT	θɔt	θo:t	Close-mid back rounded, long.	<i>thought, fort, north, haughty, force.</i>
LOT	lɔt	lɔt	Open-mid back rounded, short.	<i>lot, posh, gone, rock, off.</i>

Complex vowels (diphthongs)

FACE	fes	fæɪs	<i>face, late, rave, deign, straight.</i>
PRICE	prəɪs	prɔɪs	<i>price, fight, bike, lies, mine.</i>
MOUTH	mʌθ	mæθ	<i>mouth, round, grouse, out, rowdy.</i>
GOAT	go	gəʊ	<i>goat, roam, robe, close, though.</i>
CHOICE	tʃɔɪs	tʃɔɪs	<i>choice, Troy, noise, boys, enjoy.</i>
NEAR	nɪr	nɪə	<i>near, fear, appear, deer, sheer.</i>
SQUARE	skwer	skweə	<i>square, stare, stair, pear, share.</i>