

UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

LINGUA INGLESE I35IN

Dipartimento di Ingegneria e Architettura

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Answering questions

1. About previously obtained certificates:

If a student has obtained an English B2 certificate elsewhere, he/she can get a course exemption/credits for English 135IN, provided the certificate is considered valid and updated. The student must present a formal written request addressed to the Department and attach the certificate. Until getting a response, it is up to the student's judgment to attend to classes regularly.

2. About exams:

At the end of this course, the student will obtain the qualification "Approved-Non approved". A final written multiple-choice exam based on the syllabus content will be administered.

3. Following and approving this course will not lead to a diploma or certification of any specific English level. At the end of the course, and having passed the final exam, the student will have the 3 units corresponding to English 135IN approved.

Summary of previous lesson

1. The most spoken languages worldwide are Chinese, Spanish, English. English, for political, economical, strategic, reasons is the most studied language, the most consulted language in the Internet, etc.
2. English is clue to research: Most scientific articles, independently of the country they are published in, demand that at least the abstract be presented in English.
3. We'll concentrate first on oral difficulties encountered by Italian speakers.

English B2 objectives

Obiettivi

Il corso si propone di fornire agli studenti le seguenti competenze conoscitive e capacità:

- Preparazione per uno scambio verbale di idee con fluidità e spontaneità, particolarmente nel campo della specializzazione professionistica.
- Capacità di comprensione delle idee principali di testi complessi su argomenti concreti o astratti, includendo discussioni tecniche del campo della specialità dell'alunno.
- Abilità per la produzione scritta di testi riguardanti il campo accademico, professionistico dell'ingegneria con chiarezza e minuziosità.

Objectives

English 259 aims to provide students with the following cognitive skills and abilities:

- Preparation for a verbal exchange of ideas with fluidity and spontaneity particularly in the field of professional specialization.
- Ability to understand the main ideas of complex texts on concrete or abstract topics, including technical discussions of the field of the student's specialty.
- Ability for the written creation of texts concerning the academic and professional field of engineering with clarity and meticulousness.

Phonetics (sound units)

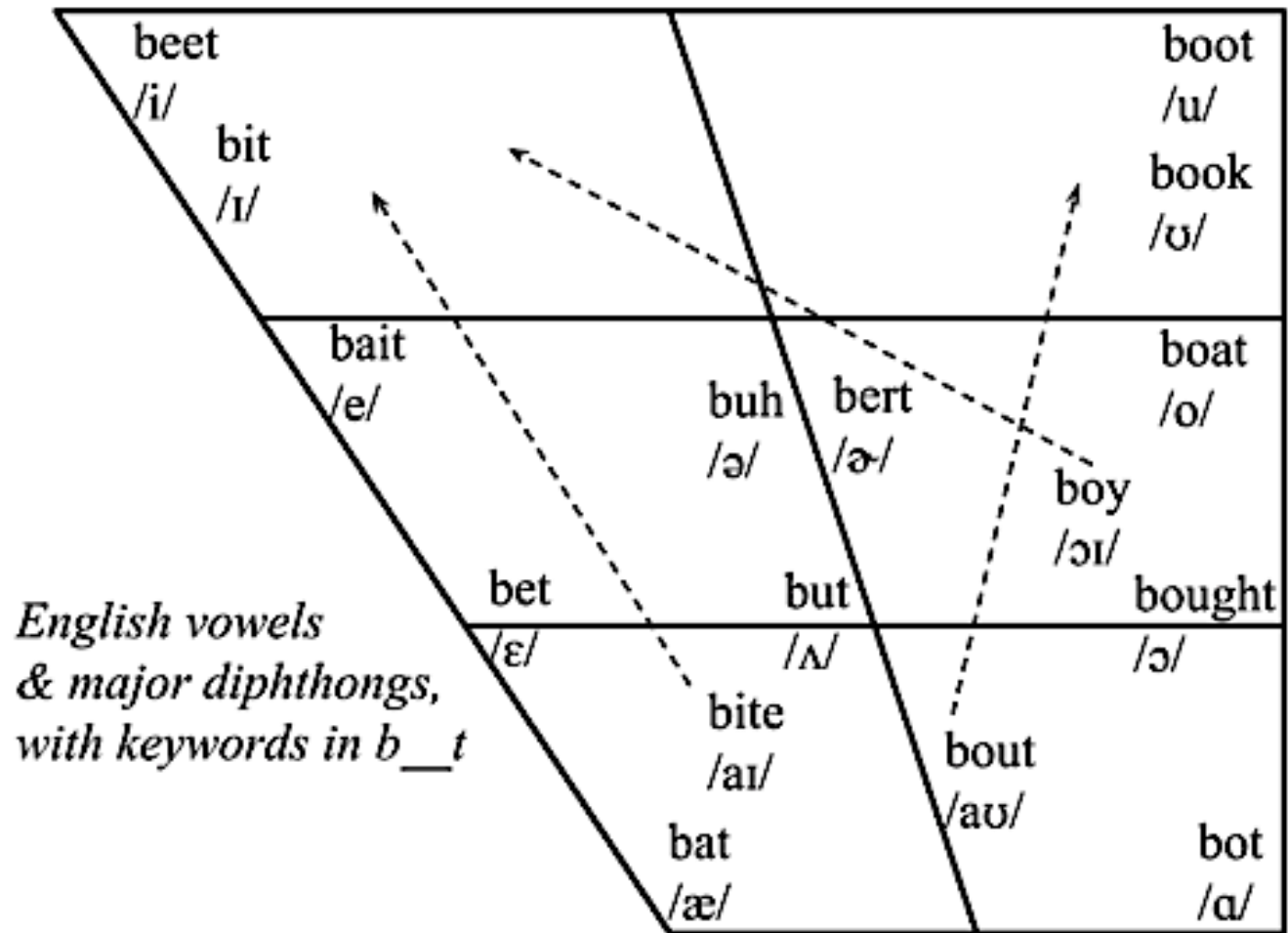
English consonants (23-26?)

The Consonants of English

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Palato-alveolar (Post-alveolar)	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
<i>Unvoiced (-V) Voiced (+V)</i>	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V
Stops (Plosives)	p b			t d			k g	ʔ ¹ ←
Fricatives		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ			h ←
Affricates					tʃ dʒ			
Nasals	m			n			ŋ ←	
Lateral (approximants)				l				
Approximants	w ²			r →		j	w ²	

We are going to concentrate on the sounds unfamiliar to the Italian speaker. They are indicated by the red arrow.

English vowels and diphthongs



International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

Definition:

International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), an alphabet developed in the 19th century to accurately represent the pronunciation of languages. One aim of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) was to provide a unique symbol for each distinctive sound in a language—that is, every sound, or phoneme, that serves to distinguish one word from another.

Read the whole article in:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/International-Phonetic-Alphabet>

Examples from wordreference.com

θ



thigh

LISTEN: UK

UK: ^{*} /θaɪ/ | US: /θaɪ/ , (thī)

[definizione](#) | [Sinonimi inglesi](#) | [collocazioni inglesi](#) | [in spagnolo](#) | [Coniugatore \(IT\)](#) | [Conjugator \(EN\)](#) | [nel contesto](#) | [immagini](#)

WordReference | Collins | WR Reverse (7)

t



tie

LISTEN: US

UK: ^{*} /taɪ/ | US: /taɪ/ , (tī)

[definizione](#) | [Sinonimi inglesi](#) | [collocazioni inglesi](#) | [in spagnolo](#) | [Coniugatore \(IT\)](#) | [Conjugator \(EN\)](#) | [nel contesto](#) | [immagini](#)

Inflections of 'tie' (n): npl: ties

Inflections of 'tie' (v): (⇒ conjugate)

ties: v 3rd person singular
tying: v pres p
tied: v past
tied: v past p

WordReference | Collins | WR Reverse (52)

“Tricky” sounds for the Italian speaker

IPA symbol	letter(s)	Example
θ	th	th in
ð	th	th is
r	r	air r
h	h	h ome
n	n	pi n
ŋ	ng	pi ng
ʔ	t	foun t ain

Do you remember the classroom exercise with your phone? Now, you can repeat it paying special attention to the **th** sounds in sentences 3, 5, 8 and 10.

1. I need to buy a new flash
2. I'm looking for a store to buy bed sheets
3. How **thin** is a sheet of paper?
4. How expensive is a gram of pepper?
5. Do you **think** Mary is a tramp?
6. Where does Mr. Trump lives?
7. Who was Luke Skywalker?
8. I would like to look into **that**
9. Who are Bert and Ernie?
10. What's the **weather** like today?

Mispronunciation of *th* may result in words that are completely different!

[θ]

- thin tin sin
- thinker tinker sinker
- thigh tie sigh
- thug tug sug
- thrust trust
- thanks tanks

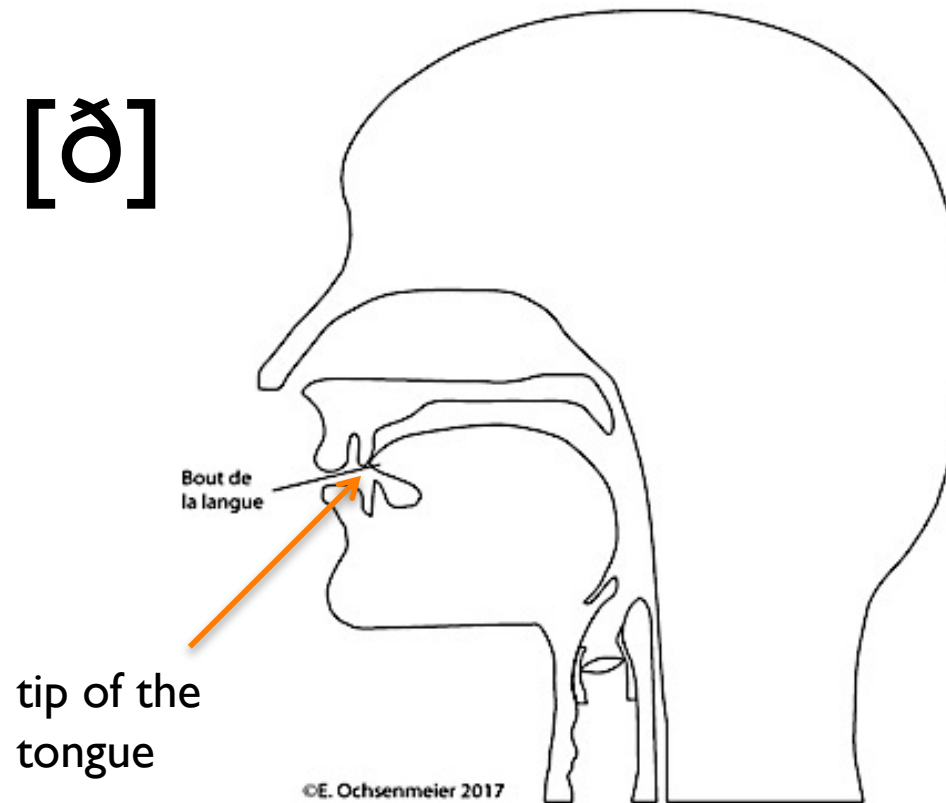
[ð]

- this 'tis
- that tat sat
- they
- them tem
- those toes
- these tease

Difference between [θ] (as in thin) and [ð] (as in this, that, these, those, etc.)

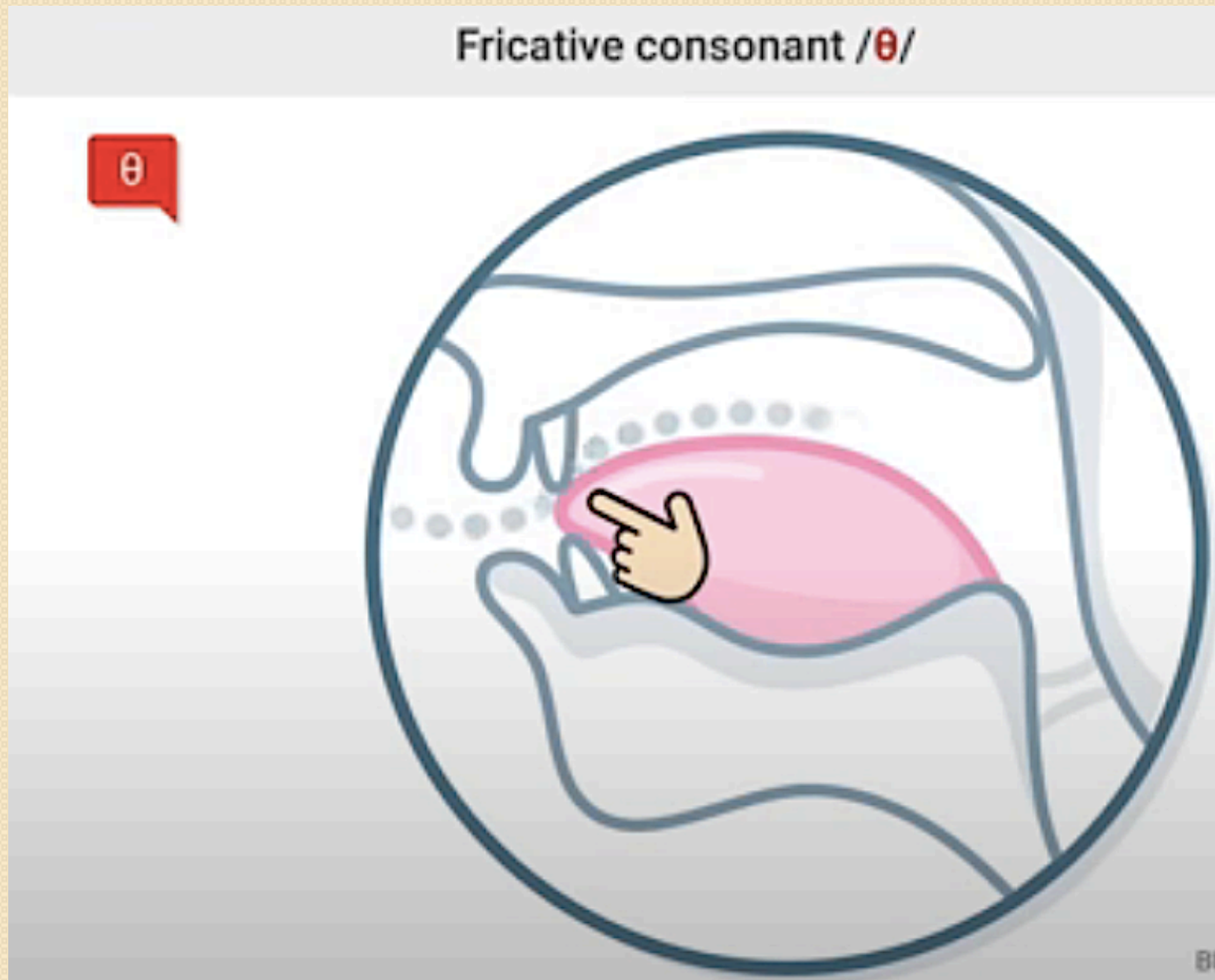
[ð]

[θ]

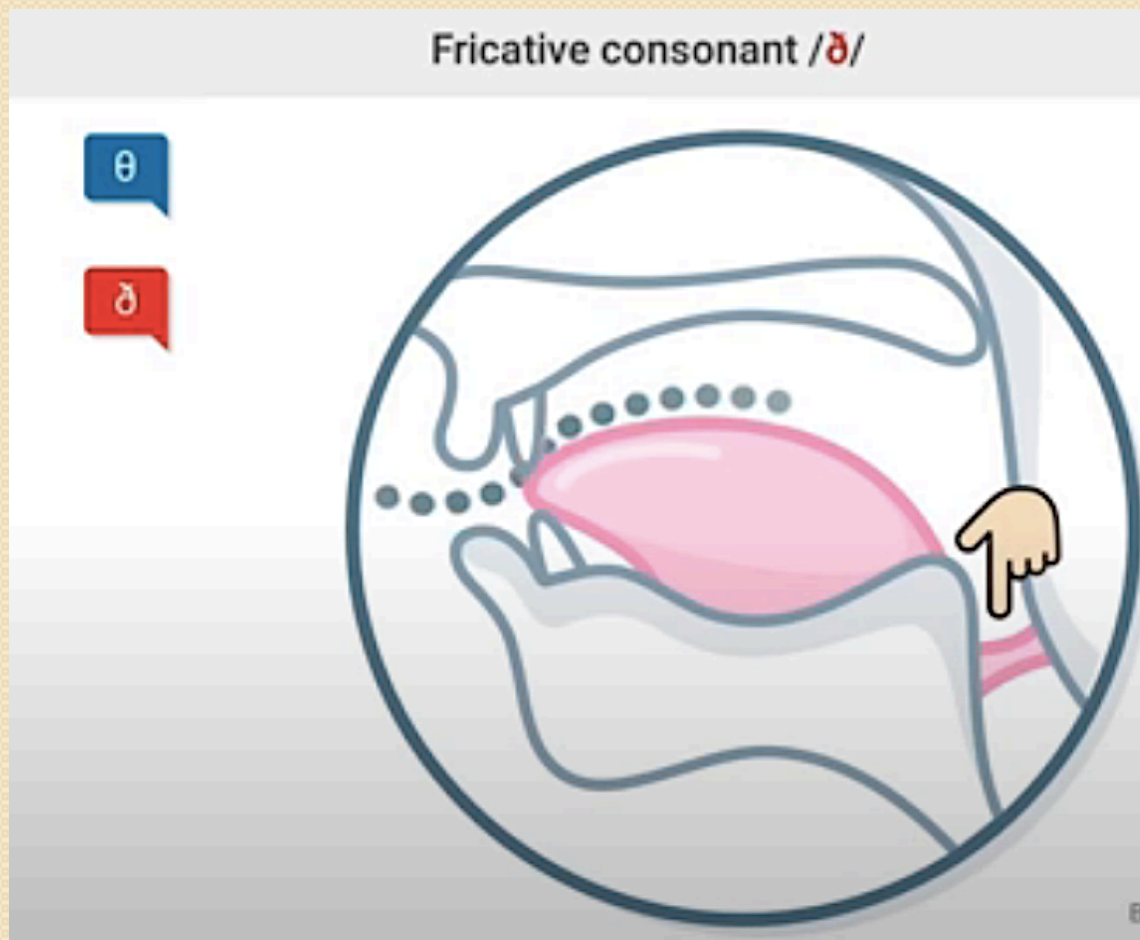


These two sounds have the same place of articulation: between the teeth. Their difference is in the vibration of the vocal cords. When pronouncing the [θ] sound (as in **thin**), the vocal cords do not vibrate. When pronouncing the [ð] sound (as in **this**), instead, the vocal cords do vibrate.

Sounds American Channel YouTube. Position of the tongue for the [θ] sound



Sounds American Channel YouTube. Vibration of vocal cords for the [ð] sound in English



th letters = two different sounds

[θ]

- thin
- thinker
- thigh
- thug
- thrust
- thanks

[ð]

- this, that
- they, them
- those
- this, these
- weather

θ and ð: two difficult sounds for the Italian speaker

Disclaimer: The following video has been used for pedagogical purposes only

Link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axcWGcUC05c>

Watch and practice!



Exceptions!!!

th = t in some nouns:

Thames, Thailand, Theresa,
Thomas, thyme, Esther.

Thames is pronounced ['temz]



The river Thames flows through London

r and r-less dialects (rhotic/non rhotic)

Rhotic

Pronounce the **r sound** at the end of words:

- Scotland
- Ireland
- Canada
- America
- South west, North west England
- Caribbean

butter = bʌtər

Non rhotic

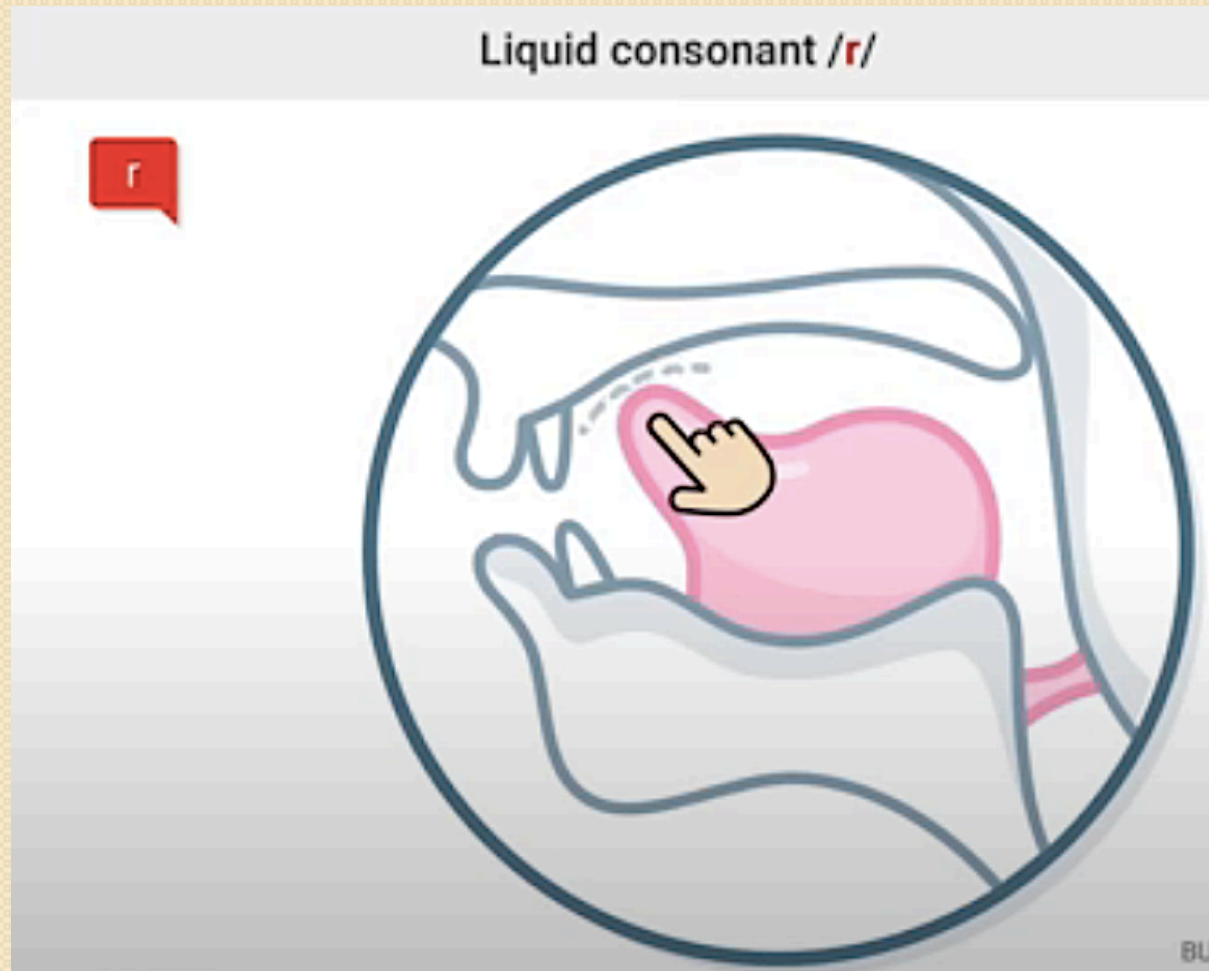
Do not pronounce the **r sound** at the end of words:

- England: East and central
England: Received Pronunciation
Australia
South Africa
America: African American English Vernacular (AAEV) and Boston area

butter = bʌtə

Exercise: go to the link <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Received-Pronunciation>
Listen carefully and try to get a grasp of the concept “received pronunciation”.

Sounds American Channel YouTube. Pronunciation of /r/



Observe the tip of the tongue: it does **NOT** touch the palate

American and British /r/ sounds

Disclaimer: The following video has been used for pedagogical purposes only

Link to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWjcoajXRVg&t=6s>



Exercise: Listen to the differences between American and British /r/ sounds

/r/ pronunciation excerpt from “The IT Crowd”

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqQ6Z-HmAqY>

Exercise: Listen carefully to the [r] sounds pronounced by the “coding genius” Maurice Moss

The IT Crowd is a British sitcom originally broadcast by Channel 4, written by Graham Linehan, produced by Ash Atalla and starring Chris O'Dowd, Richard Ayoade, Katherine Parkinson, and Matt Berry.

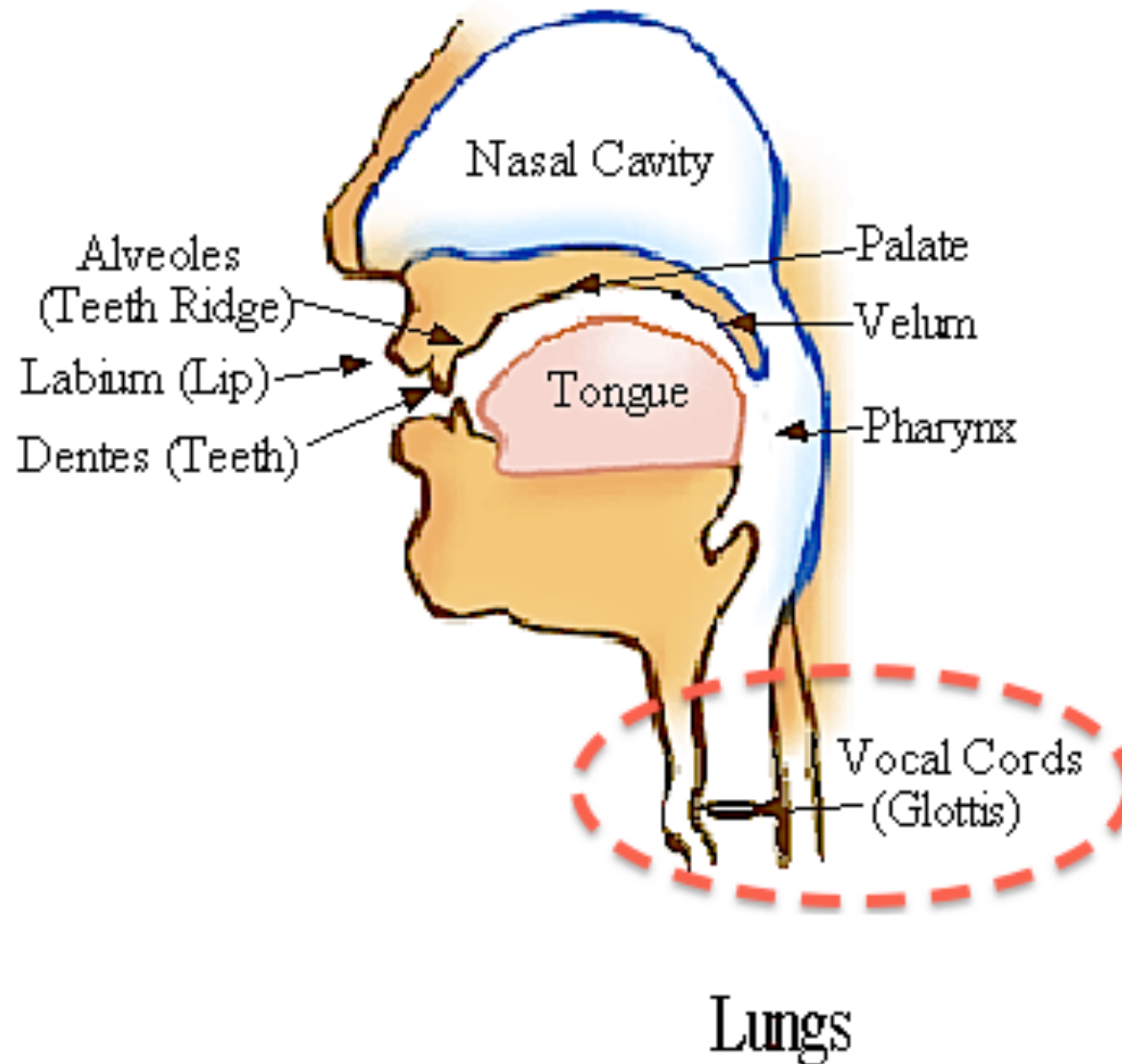
Set in the offices of the fictional Reynholm Industries, the programme revolves around the three staff members of its IT (information technology) department: coding genius Maurice Moss (Richard Ayoade), work-shy Roy Trenneman (Chris O'Dowd), and Jen Barber (Katherine Parkinson), the department head/relationship manager who knows nothing about IT. The programme also focuses on the bosses of Reynholm Industries: Denholm Reynholm (Chris Morris) and later, his son Douglas (Matt Berry). Goth IT technician Richmond Avenal (Noel Fielding), who resides in the dark server room, also features in a number of episodes.

The terrible /h/

Attention Italians: failing to pronounce [h] may result in different words than the ones we intended to communicate

- ham
- heart
- hair
- hate
- his
- hi
- heat
- home
- heater
- am
- art
- air
- eight / ate
- is
- eye
- eat
- Om
- eater

/h/ point of “articulation”

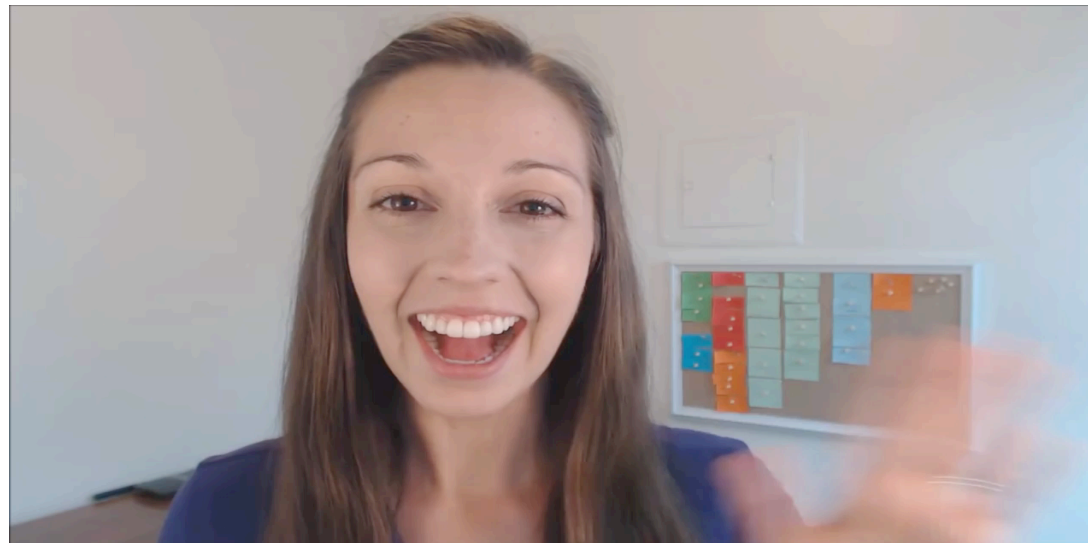


the lovely /h/

Disclaimer: The following video has been used for pedagogical purposes only

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Do3FEh5ngw&t=3s>

Exercise: Watch the video and practice your [h] sound: Don't be afraid to exaggerate!



Exceptions!!!

Do not pronounce the [h] sound in the following words:

- Honor and related words: honorary, honored, honorable, honorific, honoring, honors, honorifics.
- Herb and related words: herbalist, herbicide, herbivore, herbs, herbalists, herbicides, herbivores.
- Honest, honesty.
- Hour, hours, hourly.

Note: Most British speakers do pronounce the [h] at the beginning of herb and related words

Alveolar nasal **n** and velar nasal **ng**

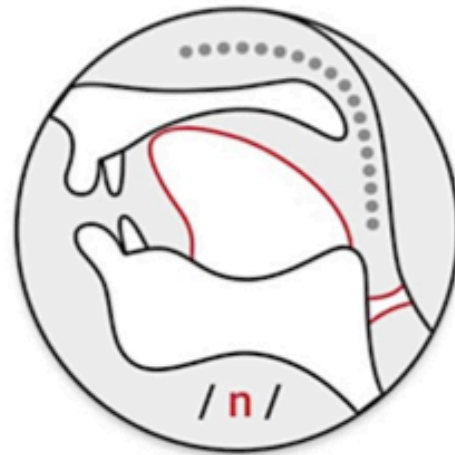
- thin thing
- ran rang
- ton tongue
- ban bang
- win wing

Note that even though the –ng spelling has two letters, the pronunciation corresponds to just ONE sound.

Tongue position for n/ng

Tongue position

Consonant Sounds / n / and / ŋ / Key Distinction



as in "thin" / θIn /



as in "thing" / θIŋ /

[n] versus [ŋ]

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RfiBn9qPIM&t=6s>

Exercise: Watch and practice.

Important: [n] in English and Italian are practically the same sound. [ŋ], however, **does not appear in Italian at the end of words**, but we find ŋ sounds inside words like *angoscia*, for example.

The /ŋ/ Sound
Pronunciation and Examples

Single Consonants
Voiced

building b i l d i ŋ
feeling f i : l i ŋ

A man in a dark suit and tie stands on the right side of the frame. The background is a solid blue color. The text and boxes are overlaid on the left and center.

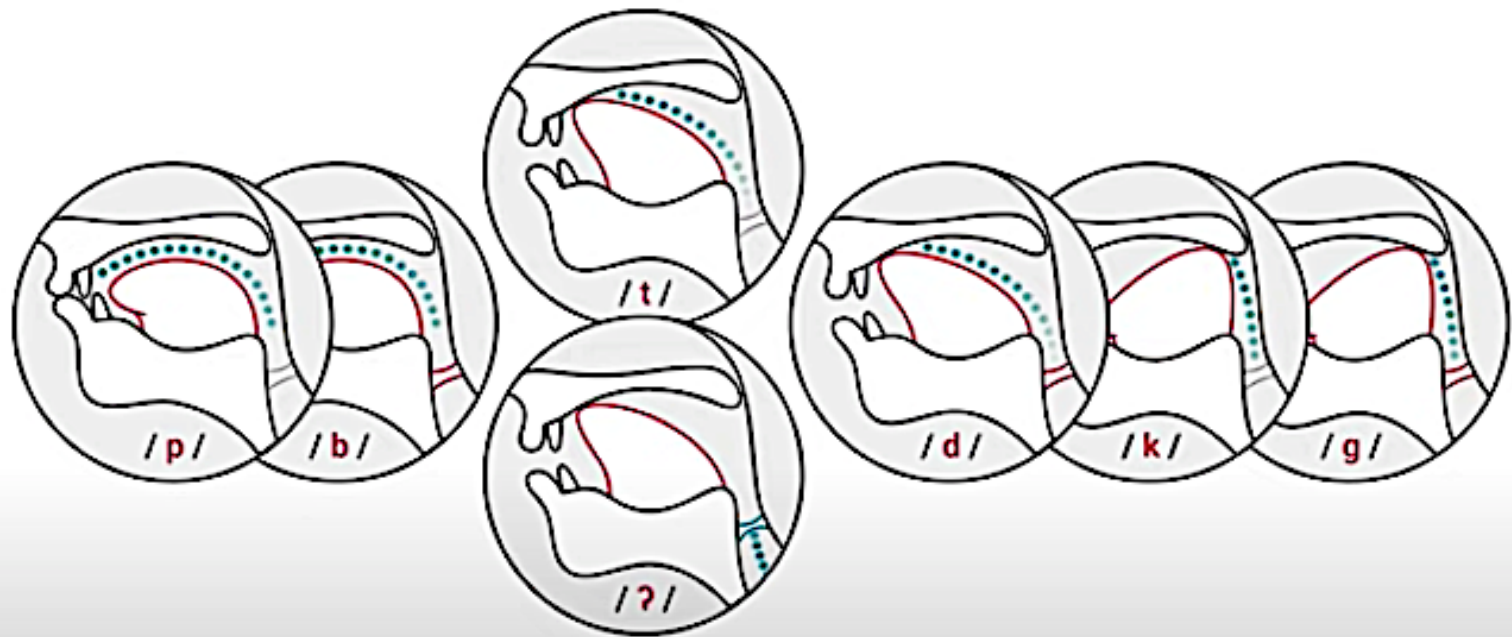
The glottal stop

Definition: The glottal stop is a consonant formed by the audible release of the airstream after complete closure of the glottis. It is widespread in some English dialects.

The representation of the glottal stop in IPA is ?

The glottal stops

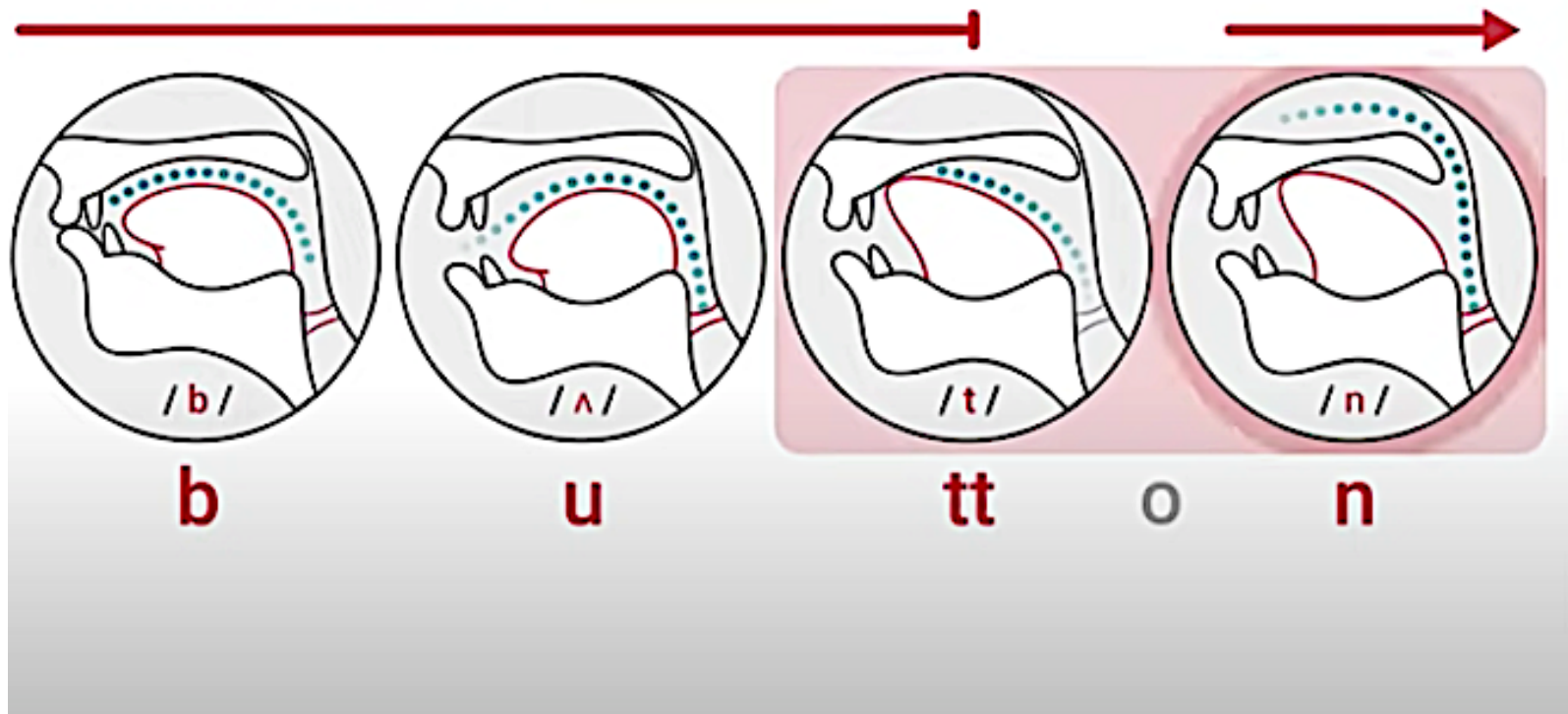
Six American English stop consonant sounds



🔗 find the link to the 'Stop Sounds Overview' video in the description below

button

Why does a "regular" /t/ become a glottal 'T'?



Practicing the ? sound

Watch the following video and practice your glottal stop.

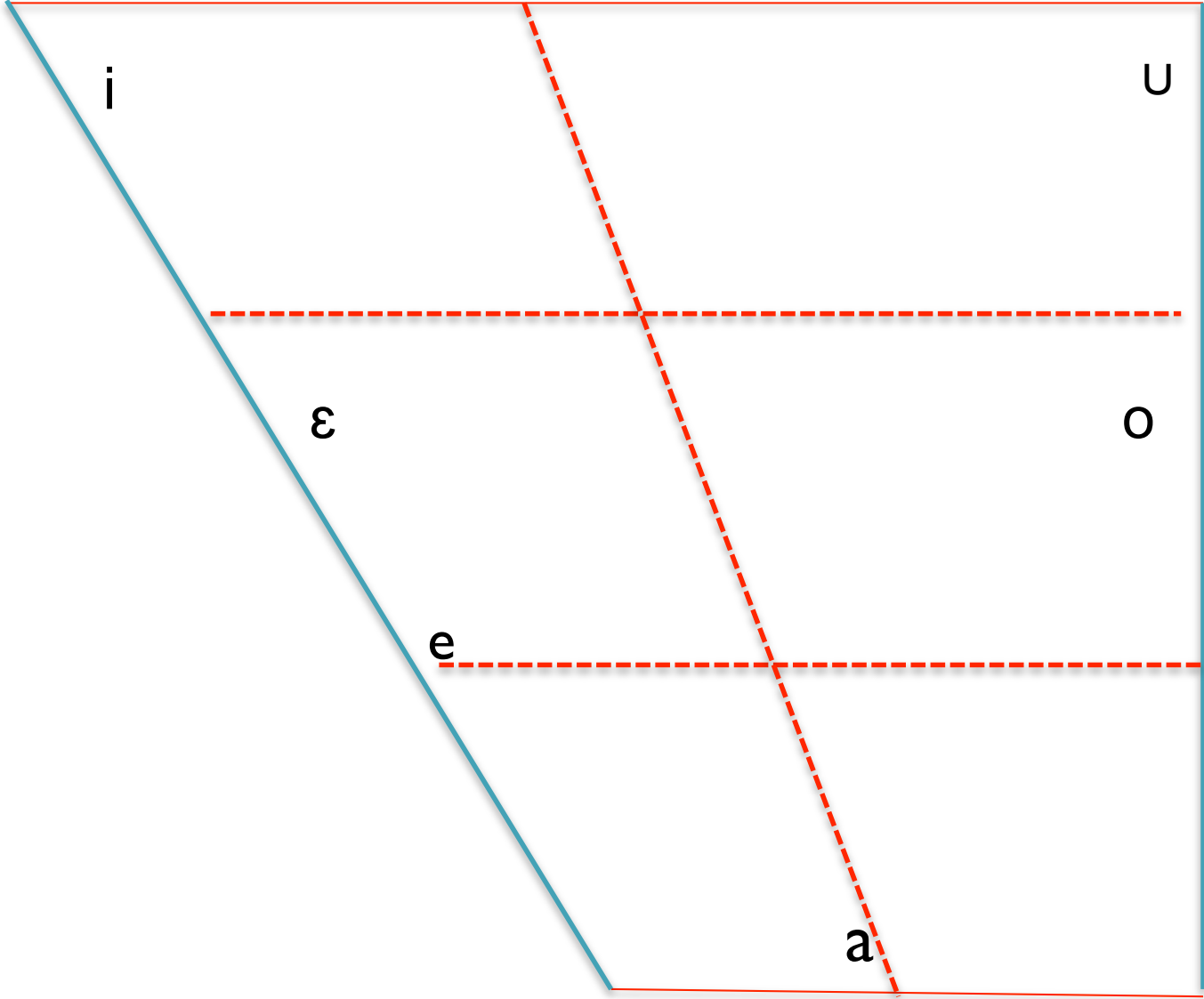
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRhV-n7iN-w>



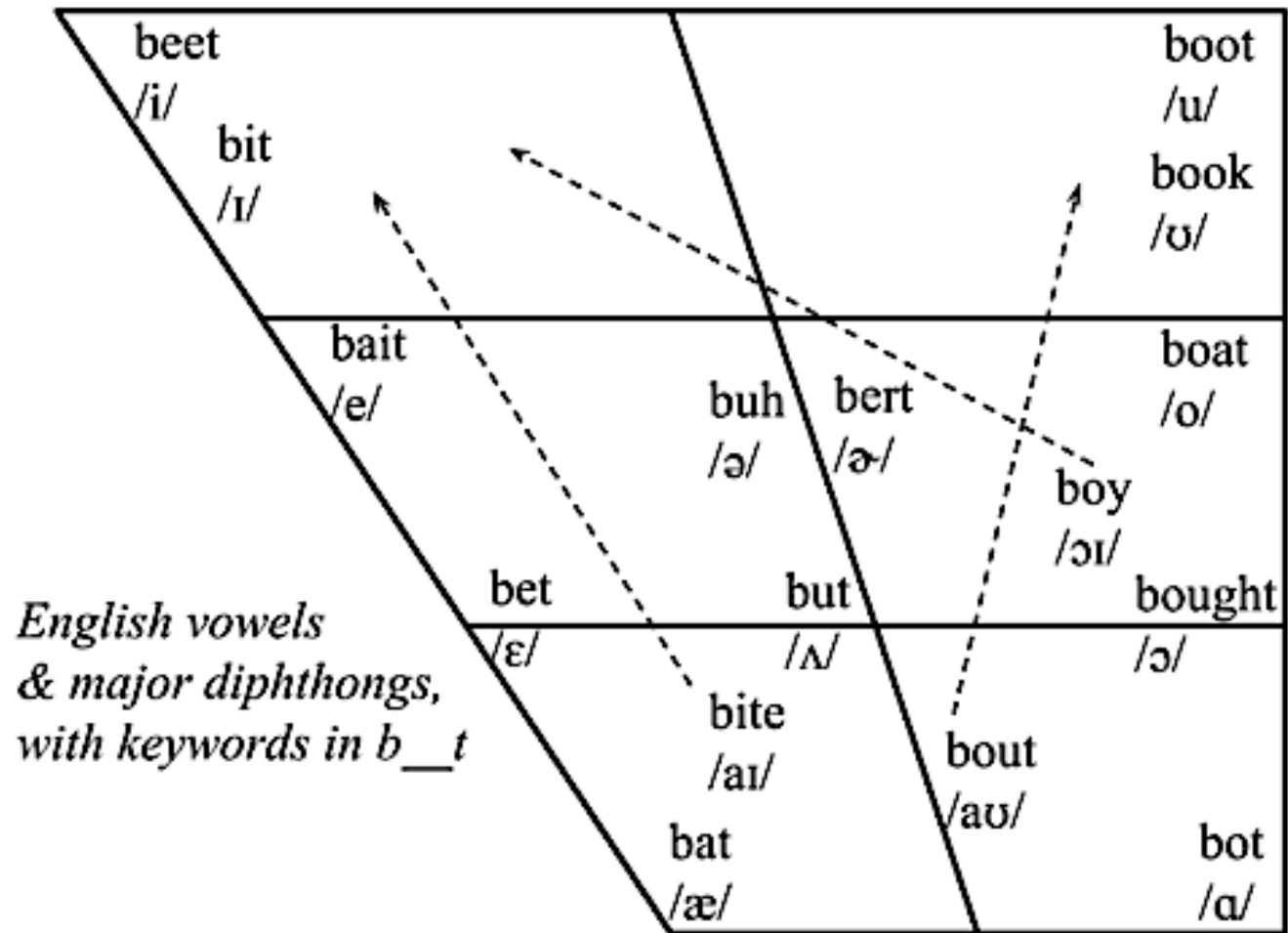
English Vowel System



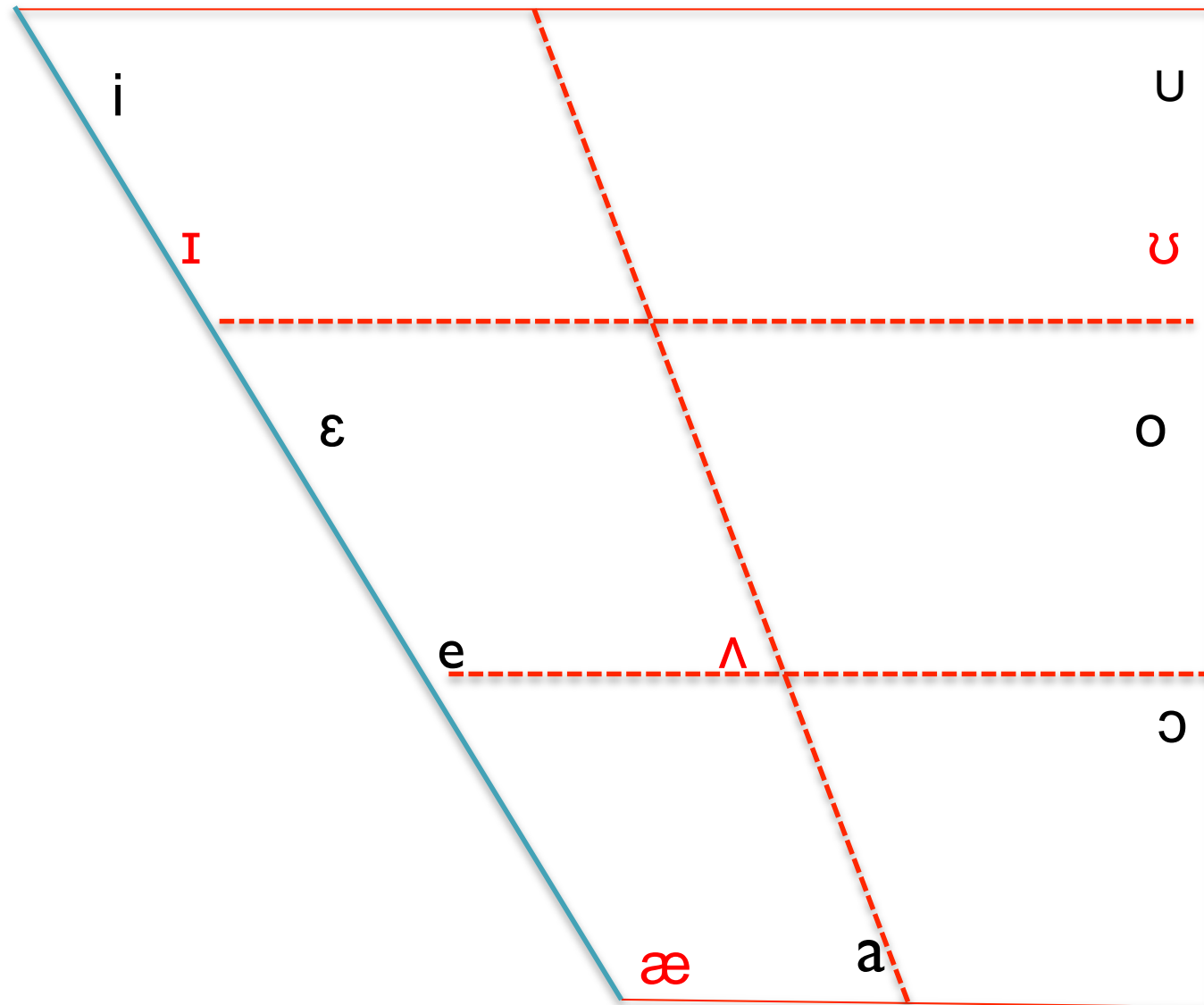
Italian vowels (simplified)



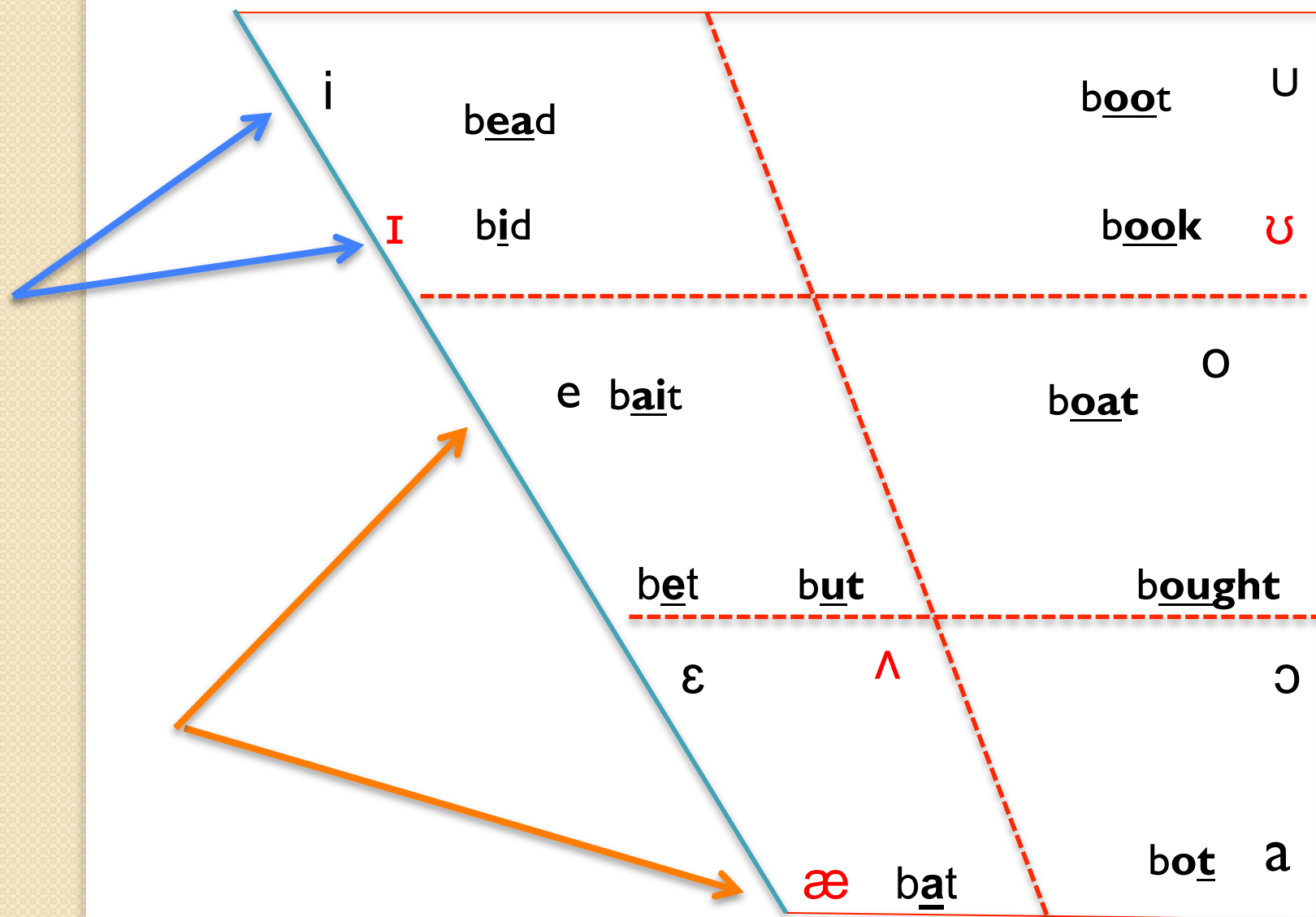
English vowels and diphthongs



English and Italian vowels (simplified)



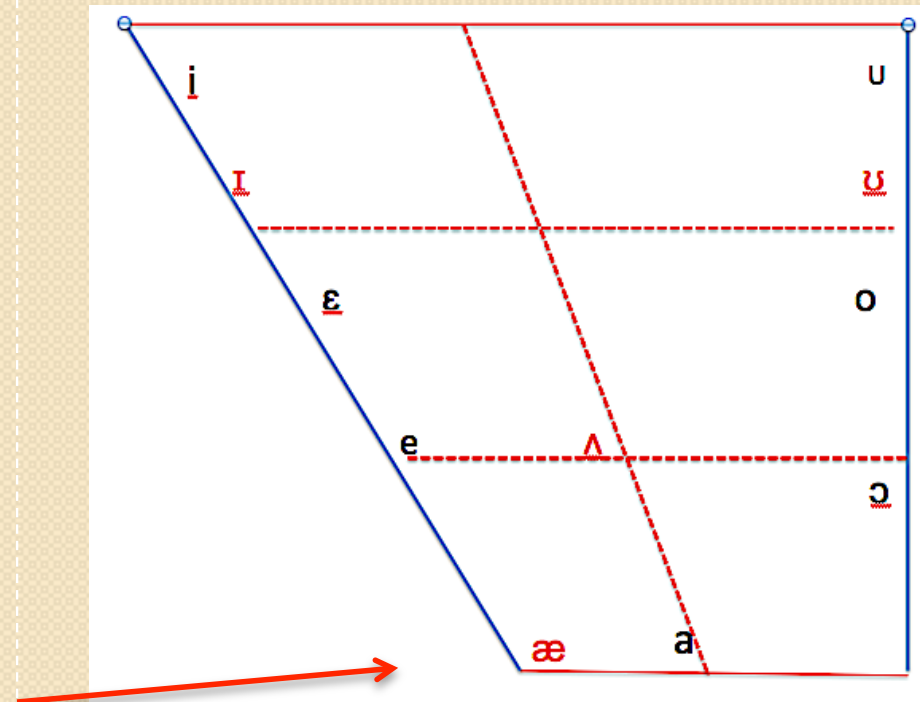
English and Italian vowels (simplified)



[æ]

[ɛ]

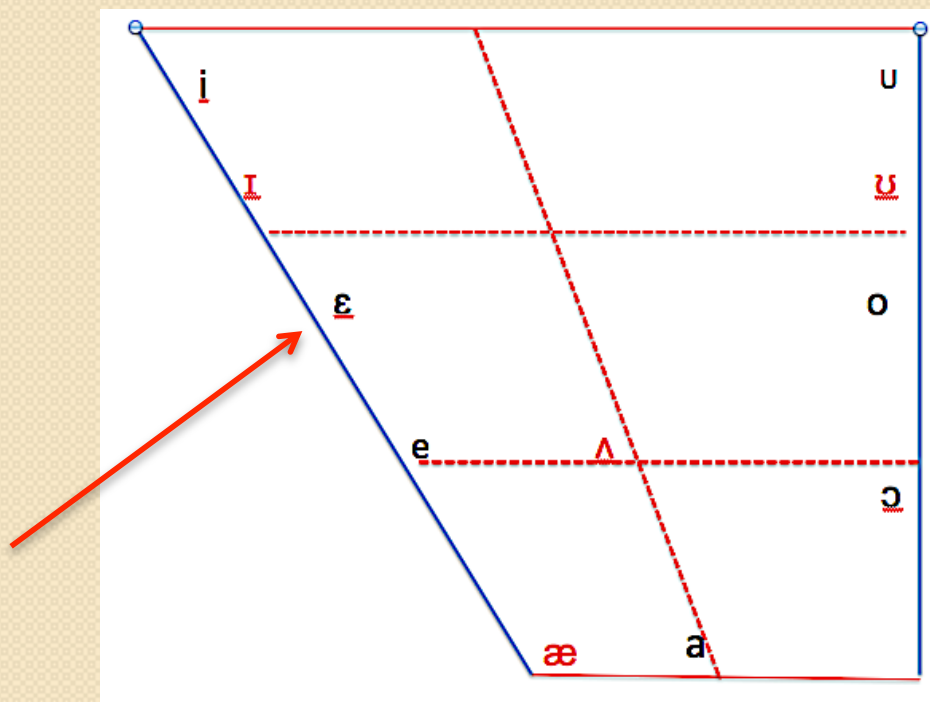
- bad
- lad
- flash
- pat
- cattle
- band
- mash
- bag
- man
- land
- tamper



Don't confuse a [æ] and e [ɛ]!

[æ]

[ɛ]



- bed
- led
- flesh
- pet
- kettle
- bend
- mesh
- beg
- men
- lend
- temper

[æ] and e [ɛ] positions

[æ]

- bad
- lad
- flash
- pat
- cattle
- band
- mash
- bag
- man
- land
- tamper

[ɛ]

- bed
- led
- flesh
- pet
- kettle
- bend
- mesh
- beg
- men
- lend
- temper

[æ] and e [ɛ]: different sounds > different meanings

[æ]

- **bad** *cattivo*
- **lad** *ragazzo*
- **flash** *lampe, luce della macchina fotografica*
- **pat** *dare una pacca*
- **cattle** *bestiame*
- **band** *gruppo musicale*
- **mash** *miscuglio*
- **bag** *borsa*
- **man** *uomo*
- **land** *terra*
- **tamper** *daneggiare*

[ɛ]

- **bed** *letto*
- **led** *passato di lead*
- **flesh** *carne, carnagione*
- **pet** *animale domestico*
- **kettle** *bollitore*
- **bend** *piegare / piegarsi*
- **mesh** *maglia, rete*
- **beg** *supplicare*
- **men** *uomini*
- **lend** *prestare*
- **temper** *umore*

a [æ] and e [ɛ] more examples

Consulting pronunciation in Wordreference.com

English-Italian

flash LISTEN: UK

UK: * /'flæʃ/ | US: /flæʃ/ , (flash)

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WordReference Collins WR Reverse (40)

In questa pagina: flash, flashbulb

'flash' è un termine alternativo per 'flashbulb'. Lo troverai in una o più linee sottostanti.

WordReference English-Italiano Dictionary © 2020:

English-Italian

bad LISTEN: US

UK: * /'bæd/ | US: /bæd/ , (bad)

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Inflections of 'bad' (adj):
worse: adj comparative
worst: adj superlative

WordReference Collins WR Reverse (100)

English-Italian

flesh LISTEN: US

UK: * /'fleʃ/ | US: /fleʃ/ , (flesh)

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WordReference Collins WR Reverse (18)

In questa pagina: flesh, flesh color

WordReference English-Italiano Dictionary © 2020:

English-Italian

bed LISTEN: UK-RP

UK: * 'BEd': /,bi:'ɛd/; 'bed': /'bɛd/ | US: /bɛd/ , (bed)

[definizione](#) | [Sinonimi inglesi](#) | [collocazioni inglesi](#) | [in spagnolo](#) | [Coniugatore \[IT\]](#) | [Conjugator \[EN\]](#) | [nel contesto](#) | [immagini](#)

Inflections of 'bed' (v): (⇒ conjugate)
beds: v 3rd person singular
bedding: v pres p
bedded: v past
bedded: v past p

WordReference Collins WR Reverse (98)

Don't confuse [i] and [ɪ]!

written ea, ie, ee [i]

- bead
- peace
- piece
- sheet
- sheep
- keep
- seat
- read
- beach
- eat
- leap

written i [ɪ]

- bid
- piss
- piss
- shit
- ship
- kip
- sit
- rid
- bitch
- it
- lip

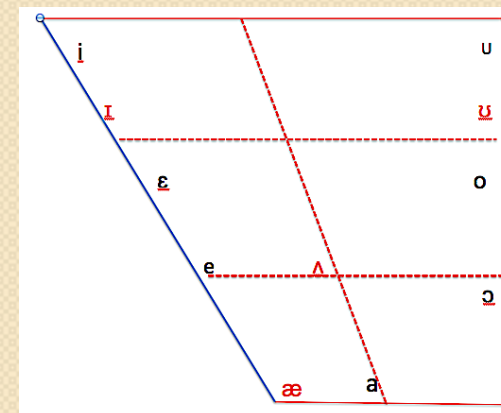
Don't confuse [i] and [ɪ] !

[i]

- bead *perlina*
- peace *pace*
- piece *pezzo*
- sheet *lenzuolo,*
foglio
- sheep *pecora*
- keep *conservare*
- seat *sedersi*
- read *leggere*
- beach *spiaggia*
- eat *mangiare*
- leap *balzo*

[ɪ]

- bid *offrire*
- piss *pisciare*
- piss *pisciare*
- shit *cacca*
- ship *nave*
- kip *pennichella*
- sit *essere seduto*
- rid *liberare da*
- bitch *cagna, puttana*
- it *lo, la, quello,*
etc.
- lip *labbro*



Practice your vowels



The link to this video is at the end of the presentation

Disclaimer: This video has been used for pedagogical purposes only

BBC Weather YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSHNkT-V7LY>

Exercise: Open the link above. Try to recognise the vowel sounds



NBC Weather Report YouTube

Exercise: Open the link above. Try to recognise the American-English vowel sounds. Try to compare with the British-English vowel sounds



Practice the following sentences with your intelligent assistant, or try to dictate them using translate.google.com

1. You are such a bad lad! (Siri's answer: That doesn't sound good)
2. My camera has a very bad flash (Siri's answer: I found this on the web)
3. I'd like to pat that man (Siri's answer: Do you? Got it)
4. That's a real bad rock band (Siri's answer: I don't know what you mean by....)
5. I'm using such a bad bag (Siri's answer: I found this on the web)
6. He was a very bad man (Siri's answer: I'm sorry)
7. They bought a large piece of bad land (Siri's answer: I'm sorry)

Practice the following words.
(Italian speakers tend to mispronounce the vowels)

• bit	<i>pochino</i>	• Sid	<i>Sidney</i>
• beet	<i>barbabietola</i>	• seed	<i>seme</i>
• bet	<i>scomessa</i>	• peat	<i>torba</i>
• bed	<i>letto</i>	• pit	<i>buco</i>
• bad	<i>cattivo, a</i>	• peep	<i>sbirciare</i>
• flesh	<i>carne, polpa</i>	• pip	<i>semino</i>
• flash	<i>flash</i>	• pep	<i>vigore</i>
• band	<i>gruppo musicale</i>	• bat	<i>pipistrello</i>
• bend	<i>piegare</i>	• bet	<i>scomessa</i>

Links to some recommended videos

Lesson 1: About the concept of linguistic dialect:

Learn cockney accent:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWvlwkL8oLc>

Speak like a true Londoner:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2xQFKwmLoQ>

Fiorello: Stasera pago io. Dialetti

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGR5FrF2XKY>

More Links (cont.)

Lessons 2: Pronunciation of sounds especially difficult for Italian learners:

Bed versus *bad* and other tricky vowels:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9YZQMH8C_w

Th sounds in English as in *thin* and *these*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76Nsqo0utJk>

The **R** sound in British and American English:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWjcoajXRVg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCsKru3nJS8>

When to pronounce “**H**”: Italian English pronunciation problems

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Do3FEh5ngw>

How to make the glottal stop sound / ʔ / as in *fountain*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edxwQKlzBxw>

More Links (cont.)

Vowel sounds. Improve your accent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69DwHUG2f7s>

r sound (and any other sound) in American English
Sounds American Channel YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5a2-KuHkBU>

Any other sound in American English
Sounds American Channel YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-MSYk9R94F3TMuKAnQ7dDg>



THANKS!

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK