# Pronunciation Notes for the Pronouncing Dictionary of the Supreme Court of the United States

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| IPA | Garner | Examples | IPA | Garner | Examples |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| p | p | **p**ie, **p**ea | i | ee | h**ee**d, b**ea**d |
| b | b | **b**y, **b**ee | ɪ | i | h**i**d, b**i**d |
| t | t | **t**ie, **t**ea | eɪ | ay | h**a**te, b**ai**t |
| d | d | **d**ie, **D** | ɛ | e | h**ea**d, b**e**d |
| k | k | bu**ck**eye, **k**ey | æ | a | h**a**d, b**a**d |
| g | g | **g**uy, fo**gg**y | ɑ | ah | h**a**, b**aa** |
| ʔ | (none)[1] | uh-uh, Hawai'i | ɑ | ah[2] | h**o**t, b**o**dy |
| tʃ | ch | **ch**ai, **ch**eetah | ɔ | aw | h**aw**ed, b**aw**d |
| dʒ | j | **j**ive, **G** | oʊ | oh | h**o**ed, b**o**de |
| f | f | **f**ie, **f**ee | ʊ | uu | h**oo**d, b**oo**k |
| v | v | **v**ie, **V** | u | oo | wh**o**'d, b**oo**ed |
| θ | th | **th**igh, **th**eme | ə | ə | **a**head, **a**board |
| ð | <u>th</u> | **th**y, **th**ee | ʌ | ə | H**u**dson, b**u**d |
| s | s | **s**igh, **s**ea | aɪ | ɪ | h**i**de, b**i**de |
| z | z | **Z**aire, **Z** | aʊ | ow | h**ow**'d, b**ow**ed |
| ʃ | sh | **sh**y, **sh**e | ɔɪ | oi | ah**oy**, b**oy** |
| ʒ | zh | vi**s**ion, re**g**ime | iɹ | eer | h**ere**, b**ear**d |
| χ | kh[3] | **ch**utzpah | ɛɹ | air | h**air**, b**are**d |
| h | h | **h**igh, **h**e | ɑɹ | ahr | h**ar**d, b**ar**d |
| m | m | **m**y, **m**e | ɔɹ | or | h**or**de, b**oar**d |
| n | n | **n**igh, **kn**ee | uɹ | oor | p**oor**, b**oor** |
| ŋ | ng | ra**ng**, cli**ng**y | əɹ | ər | h**er**d, b**ir**d, ov**er** |
| l | l | **l**ie, **L**ee | | | |
| ɹ | r | **r**ye, **r**eed | | | |
| w | w | **w**ide, **w**e | | | |
| hw | hw | **wh**y, **wh**ich | | | |
| j | y | **y**es, **y**e | | | |

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[1] For Americanized pronunciations that include the glottal stop, it is represented in our IPA transcriptions but not our Garner transcriptions.

[2] Garner (2009a,b, 2011) distinguishes between IPA /ɑ/ and /ɒ/, giving /ah/ for the former and /o/ for the latter. Although we acknowledge that some varieties of American English maintain this distinction, we treat British English /ɑ/ and /ɒ/ as having merged to /ɑ/ in General American English, following EPD 18, LPD 3, ODP, and CD 6. Thus we use /ah/ rather than /o/ in our Garner transcriptions of these words.

[3] Garner (2009,a,b, 2011) does not represent this sound, found only in pronunciations that are not fully Americanized. We have used /kh/, following Olausson & Sangster (2006), whose system is close to Garner's.

**Notes on IPA transcription**

*American English*

The English variety represented throughout the dictionary is General American English (AmE), and we adopt the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols for AmE phonemes used in CP 6. We depart from CP 6 in that we retain the IPA usage of /ɹ/ for the AmE rhotic approximant (the first sound in *run*).[4] For the sake of maximum font compatibility in the online version of this dictionary, both the stressed and unstressed versions of the syllabic rhotic approximant are represented as /əɹ/ rather than /ɻ/, /ɚ/, or /ɝ/. We distinguish between /ɑ/ and /ɔ/ while noting that these phonemes have merged (except in some environments, like before /l/ and /ɹ/) for many speakers of General American English; the same is true for /w/ and /hw/. Speakers who do not distinguish these pairs should have no trouble substituting /ɑ/ for /ɔ/ and /w/ for /hw/ where necessary.

*Other languages*

Transcriptions of other languages follow standard implementations of the IPA. In no cases have we used a symbol outside its normal IPA interpretation (IPA 1999, 2005).

*Level of transcription*

The English IPA transcriptions given in this dictionary are broadly phonemic: they attempt to capture the pronunciation of a name using symbols that unambiguously represent the contrastive sounds of the language. Stop aspiration is not represented, so *court* is given as /kɔɹt/ rahter than [kʰɔɹt]; neither is tapping of *t/d*, so *liberty* is given as /ˈlɪ.bəɹ.ti/ rather than [ˈlɪ.bəɹ.ɾi].

Transcriptions of native speaker pronunciations are generally phonemic as well, but we have represented some allophonic distinctions that are particularly salient to English speakers. For example, the Spanish transcriptions distinguish between stop ([b], [d], [g]) and fricative ([β], [ð], [ɣ]) realizations of stop phonemes.

*Affricates*

English affricates are represented as /tʃ/ and /dʒ/, two symbols with no tie bar, following EPD 18, LPD 3, ODP, and CP 6. Contrasts like *white shoes* versus *why choose* are distinguished by placement of word and/or syllable boundaries.

*Syllabic consonants*

English syllabic consonants are uniformly represented as /ə/ plus the consonant (e.g., /əl/, /əɹ/, /ən/, /əm/).

*Diphthongs*

English diphthongs are represented with two vowel symbols not joined by a tie bar, following EPD 18, LPD 3, ODP, and CP 6. Two consecutive vowels that fall in separate syllables (hiatus) are separated by a syllable boundary.

*Vowel reduction*

English reduced vowels are consistently represented as /ə/; the degree of centralization in this vowel varies depending on a number of factors, and these fine-grained phonetics distinctions are not represented here.

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[4] Since its 5th edition, *A Course in Phonetics* has used /r/ to represent the English rhotic approximant, in order to conform to usage in the EPD, LPD, and ODP. Because our dictionary must distinguish between the alveolar trill (used, for example, in Spanish and Italian) and English's alveolar approximant, we have kept the IPA symbols for those sounds (/r/ for the trill and /ɹ/ for the approximant).

*Length*

English vowels are represented by symbols that emphasize contrasts in vowel quality, leaving length differences to be supplied automatically by the reader, following ODP (for American English) and CP 6. The same applies for transcriptions of native speaker pronunciations of German names. In transcriptions of languages where vowel and/or consonant length is independently contrastive, as in Japanese, the IPA length mark /ː/ is used to indicate that the preceding vowel is long, and long consonants are represented by a doubled consonant symbol separated by a syllable boundary.

**Stress**

In the IPA, syllables bearing primary stress are preceded by /ˈ/, as in *supreme* /suˈpɹim/. Syllables bearing secondary stress are preceded by /ˌ/, as shown by the first syllable in *deposition* /ˌdɛ.pəˈzɪ.ʃən/. In Garner's system, syllables bearing primary stress are shown in bold, as in *supreme* /soo-**preem**/. Secondary stress is left unmarked, as shown by the first syllable in *deposition* /de-pə-**zi**-shən/.

**Syllable boundaries**

The IPA symbol used to mark syllable boundaries is /./. We use this symbol only at syllable boundaries where a stress mark does not appear; i.e., before unstressed non-initial syllables. This usage conforms to the EPD 18. In the Garner transcriptions, all syllable boundares are marked by /-/. Compare the transcriptions for *confidential*: /ˌkɑn.fɪˈdɛn.tʃəl/ (IPA), /kahn-fi-**den**-chəl/ (Garner).

**References**

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