

<i>Standard lexical sets</i>			
KIT	Vowel	Description	Other examples
GenAm	ɪ	short ¹ close front unrounded	<i>ship, sick myth, busy</i>
RP	ɪ	short close front unrounded	
DRESS			
Gen Am	ɛ	open-mid front unrounded	<i>step, neck, edge, shelf, friend, ready</i>
RP	ɛ ²	open mid front unrounded	
TRAP			
GenAm	æ	raised open front unrounded	<i>tap, back, badge, scalp, hand, cancel</i>
RP	æ	raised open front unrounded	
LOT			
GenAm	ɑ	open back unrounded	<i>stop, sock, dodge, romp, possible, quality</i>
RP	ɒ	open back rounded	
STRUT			
GenAm	ʌ	open-mid back unrounded	<i>cup, suck, budge, pulse, trunk, blood</i>
RP	ʌ	open-mid back unrounded	
FOOT			
GenAm	ʊ	short close back rounded	<i>put, bush, full, good, look, wolf</i>
RP	ʊ	short close back rounded	
BATH			
GenAm	æ	raised open front unrounded	<i>staff, brass, ask, dance, sample, calf</i>
RP	ɑ:	long open back unrounded	
CLOTH			
GenAm	ɔ	open-mid back rounded	<i>cough, broth, cross, long, Boston</i>
RP	ɒ	open back rounded	
NURSE			
GenAm	ɜ(r)	open-mid central (+r)	<i>hurt, lurk, urge, burst, jerk, term</i>
RP	ɜ:	long open-mid central	
FLEECE			
GenAm	i:	long close front unrounded	<i>creep, speak, leave, feel, key, people</i>
RP	i:	long close front unrounded	
FACE			
GenAm	eɪ	closing diphthong	<i>tape, cake, raid, veil, steak, day</i>
RP	eɪ	closing diphthong	
PALM			
GenAm	ɑ	open back unrounded	<i>psalm, father, bra, spa, lager</i>
RP	ɑ:	long open back unrounded	
THOUGHT			
GenAm	ɔ	open-mid back rounded	<i>taught, sauce, hawk, jaw, broad</i>
RP	ɔ:	long open-mid back rounded	
GOAT			
GenAm	o	close-mid back rounded	<i>soap, joke, home, know, so, roll</i>
RP	əʊ	closing diphthong	
GOOSE			
GenAm	u	close back rounded	<i>loop, shoot, tomb, mute, huge, view</i>
RP	u:	long close back rounded	

<i>Standard lexical sets (continued)</i>			
PRICE	Vowel	Description	Other Examples
GenAm	aɪ	closing diphthong	<i>ripe, write, arrive, high, try, buy</i>
RP	aɪ	closing diphthong	
CHOICE			
GenAm	ɔɪ	closing diphthong	<i>adroit, noise, join, toy, royal</i>
RP	ɔɪ	closing diphthong	
MOUTH			
GenAm	aʊ	closing diphthong	<i>out, house, loud, count, crowd, cow</i>
RP	aʊ	closing diphthong	
NEAR			
GenAm	ɪ(r	short close front unrounded	<i>beer, sincere, fear, beard, serum</i>
RP	ɪə	centring diphthong	
SQUARE			
GenAm	ɛ(r	open-mid front unrounded	<i>care, fare, fair, pear, where, scarce, vary</i>
RP	eə	centring diphthong	
START			
GenAm	ɑ(r	open back unrounded	<i>far, sharp, bark, carve, farm, heart</i>
RP	ɑ:	long open back unrounded	
NORTH			
GenAm	ɔ(r	open-mid back rounded	<i>for, war, short, scorch, born, warm</i>
RP	ɔ:	long open-mid back rounded	
FORCE			
GenAm	o	close-mid back rounded	<i>four, wore, sport, porch, borne, story</i>
RP	ɔ:	long open-mid back rounded	
CURE			
GenAm	ʊ(r	short close back rounded	<i>poor, tourist, pure, plural, jury</i>
RP	ʊə	centring diphthong	

¹ Many phoneticians prefer the terms *lax* and *tense* for *short* and *long*, respectively, to indicate that the difference between certain vowels is not necessarily duration but the amount of energy that goes into their articulation. Long or tense vowels are indicated by /:/

² Many phoneticians use /e/ instead of /ɛ/ as the symbol for this vowel in RP but for consistency we will use /ɛ/. However, we will follow normal practice and use /eə/ for the RP diphthong in SQUARE.