

Monophthongs – The Pure Vowel

A pure vowel is a sound that is articulated at the beginning and end of the word. It is relatively fixed and will glide in the up and down direction. The monophthongs can be really contrasted along with diphthongs in which the vowel quality changes. It will have the same syllables and hiatus with two vowels. Monophthongs are called pure vowels as they provide a single sound while pronouncing the words. As stated earlier, you won't be able to notice any glide or shift from one sound to another. If you observe the position of the tongue, the mouth will remain the same when these words are pronounced.

The monophthong is a word that is derived from old Greek. 'mono' means one or single and '-phthong' means sound or tone. This means that when the vowel is spoken it will have exactly only one sound or tone. In addition to that, it will have only one mouth position.

Pronouncing words is a physical activity. You can go through these sounds whenever you need to think about these. In all the different ways of pronunciation, the position of your tongue would change.

Examples of 12 Pure Vowel Sound Words

Vowel Sound	Example Words
/i:/	Me, these, need, be, keep, deep, sheep, Jeep, beep, eat, feel, see, meet,

	deal, read, beat, peak, seek, heap, leap, feet, seat, heel, keen, seen, teen, leave
/ɪ/	With, this, if, think, link, wink, rink, sink, big,

	six, live, since, miss, wrist, lift, pit, sit, pick, bill, fill, till, him, pin, tin, win, bid, did
/ʊ/	Put, Would, Look, Woman, Hook, Nook, Food, Fool, Cool, Hue,

	Ooze, Moose, Boot, Cook, Rook, Took, Good
/u:/	To, You, New, Who
/e/	Get, When, Well, Very, Bed, Said, Leg, Hell, Hem, Ben,

	Pen, Den, Ten, Men, Bend, Lend, Send, Bet, Met, Pet, Set, Mess, Wreck, Peck, Letter, Better
/ə/	The, About, Could, Us

/3:/

Her,
Work,
Learn,
Word,
Burn,
Turn,
Firm,
Bird,
Curd,
Curse,
Curt,
Shirt,
Turk,
Curl,
Hurl,
Earl,
Pearl,
Sir,
Worm,
worth,
Fir, Stir,

	Sir, Occur, Purr
/ɔ:/	Or, Also, More, Call, All, Mall, Hall, Shall, Fall, Tall, Wall, Paul, War, Ward, Warm, Reward, Walk, Wart
/æ/	Have, That, As,

	Can, Sad, bad, Bag, Lag, Hal, Ham, Ban, Pan, Dan, Tan, Man, Band, Land, Sand, Bat, Mat, Pat, Sat, Mass, Rack, Pack,
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	Latter, Batter
/ʌ/	But, Up, One, Much
/ɑ:/	Start, Ask, Large, After
/ɒ/	Of, On, From, Not

It is really interesting to listen to various accents of the people speaking English across the globe. There are a lot of differences between the American and British English. Even in America itself, there would be a lot of variation in accent depending on the regions. Always pay attention to linguistic variations.

All these are single pure vowels which are called the monophthongs. There are more and more examples of these, but we have some you help you understand the pure vowels. One most essential thing that you need to remember here is the pronunciation of the words and how the monophthong functions.
