

ENGLISH ALLOPHONES

The following table lists the 24 English consonants and their main allophones, which have been given an articulatory label. Long and short consonants, glottalised stops and frontier and backer variants have not been included in this table. In the case of sounds whose variations do not differ much from the given form, only the latter has been included.

Phonemes	Allophonic variants	Distribution	Examples
/p/	[p ^h] aspirated	+ accented V	[ˈp ^h ʊt ^ɪ ˈp ^h en tə ˈp ^h eɪpə]
	[p̚] unreleased	+ plosive / affricate	[ə ˈt ^h ɒp̚ ten ˈplɛ:ə]
	[p ⁿ] nasally released	+ nasal C	[ˈstɒp ⁿ ˈna:ʊ] [tɒp ⁿ mɒdɫ]
	[p] unaspirated	after [s]; in unaccented syllables	[ˈdʒæpəˈni:z spəˈʊkən]
/b/	[b] voiced	between vd. sounds	[əˈbaʊt ə ˈbɔ:ɪ baɪ ˈnɪk ˈhɔ:mbɪ]
	[b̚] devoiced	before and after vl. Cs and pauses	[ˈb̚ɒb̚ ˈt ^h ɒməs ɪz ət̚ ðə ˈp ^h lɒb̚]
	[b̚] unreleased	+ plosive / affricate	[hɪz ə ˈlæb̚ tek ⁿ ɪŋ]
	[b ⁿ] nasally released	+ nasal C	[ˈkɪl ⁿ b ⁿ membəz ˈəʊnli]

/t/	[t ^h]	aspirated	+ accented V	[t ^h əˈʊni ən t ^h ɪm]
	[t̚]	unreleased	+ plosive / affricate	[ˈmiːt̚ dʒeɪn ət̚ ˈdeɪvz]
	[t̪]	dental	+ [θ, ð]	[wi wəɹ ət̪ ðə ˈθiːətəɹ ət̪ ˈθri:]
	[t̠]	post-alveolar	+ [ɹ]	[ˈt̠jɑ:ɪ əlʒen]
	[t̪ ⁿ]	nasally released	+ nasal C	[aɪ ˈbɔ:t̪ ðə kʰɜːt̪nɪz ɪn ˈbɹɪt̪n]
	[t̪ ^l]	laterally released	+ [l]	[aɪ lef ðə ˈbɒt̪ ^l nekz tə ðə kʰet̪ ^l]
	[t]	unaspirated	after [s]; in unaccented syllables	[ˈlets ˈstʌdi təgeðə]
	[ɾ]	voiced alveolar tap	AmEng unaccented intervocalic [ɾ]	[ˈwɑ:t̪ ə ˈdɜ:t̪ i ˈsɪt̪i]
/ d /	[d]	voiced	between vd. sounds	[leɪdi daɪˈæneɪ daɪd̪ ˈt̪jædʒɪkl̪]
	[d̚]	devoiced	before and after vl. Cs and pauses	[d̚ɒn t̪jɑ:ɪd̚ tə ˈheɪp̚ n̪ mi]
	[d̚]	unreleased	+ plosive / affricate	[ɪts ˈbed̚ ˈtaɪm]
	[d̪]	dental	+ [θ, ð]	[ðə ˈt̪ɪt̪d̪ən ˈstʊd̪ ðeə]
	[d̠]	post-alveolar	+ [ɹ]	[ə ˈbæd̪ ˈd̠ɹi:m]
	[d̪ ⁿ]	nasally released	+ nasal C	[ˈgɔ:d̪nɪz ɪn ðə ˈbæk̪ ˈgɔ:d̪n]
	[d̪ ^l]	laterally released	+ [l]	[ˈlaɪt̪ ə kʰænd̪ ^l , pl̪i:z]
/k/	[k ^h]	aspirated	+ accented V	[ðə kʰɪŋ kʰeɪm ɪntə hɪz kʰɑːst̪]
	[k̚]	unreleased	+ plosive / affricate	[ˈæk̚tɪŋ ɪz ˈæk̚t̪ʃəli əˈt̪jæk̚tɪv]
	[k̪ ⁿ]	nasally released	+ nasal C	[ˈdɑ:k̪nəs] [ˈθɪk̪nəs]
	[k]	unaspirated	after [s]; in unaccented syllables	[aɪ ˈtʰʊk ə ˈbʊk fɹʌŋ ˈsku:t̪]

/g/	[g]	voiced	between vd. sounds	[ʃiz ə 'gɔːdʒəs, 'veɪi 'ɡʊd lʊkiŋ 'ɡɜːt]
	[g̊]	devoiced	before and after vl. sounds and pauses	['θæŋk̊ 'ɡɒd]
	[g̚]	unreleased	+ plosive / affricate	[ə 'lɒɡ̚ 'kʰæbɪn]
	[g̃]	nasally released	+ nasal C	['bɪɡ̃ˀ 'maːʊθ]
/tʃ/	[tʃ]	voiceless	all positions	[hɪz̥ 'tʰeːɪkiŋ ə 'pɪk̚tʃə əv ðə 'tʃɜːtʃ]
/dʒ/	[dʒ]	voiced	between Vd. sounds	[dʒɒn ɪŋ'vaːɪtɪd̥ ðə 'dʒʌdʒ ɪn 'dʒuːn]
	[dʒ̥]	devoiced	before and after Vl. Cs and pauses	[dʒ̥ænis 'dʒ̥əːʊnz̥]
/f/	[f]	voiceless	all positions	['fʌæŋks 'flaːɪŋ bæk ət 'fɔː]
/v/	[v]	voiced	between vd. sounds	[maːɪ 'sɪstə 'vɪvɪən 'lɪvz ɪŋ 'venɪs]
	[v̥]	devoiced	before and after vl. Cs and pauses	[əv̥ 'kʰɔːs aːɪt̥ vɪzɪt̥ 'vɪk̚tə]
/θ/	[θ]	voiceless	all positions	['smɪθ 'θɔːt ɪt əˈʊvə 'θʌli]
/ð/	[ð]	voiced	between vd. sounds	[ðɪ lðə 'deːɪ ðeːɪ 'went̥ tə ðə 'muːvɪz̥]
	[ð̥]	devoiced	before and after vl. Cs and pauses	[ð̥ɪs ɪz̥ 'hɒt̥ 'ð̥eːəz̥]

/s/	[s]	voiceless	all positions	[maːɪ ˈsɪstə ˈsuːzən ən hə ˈkʰæts]
/z/	[z]	voiced	between vd. sounds	[wi ˈvɪzɪtɪd ðə ˈzuː ən wenzdeɪ]
	[z̥]	devoiced	before and after vl. Cs and pauses	[ðəˈuz̥ tˈhuː tʃeːəz̥]
/ʃ/	[ʃ]	voiceless	all positions	[aɪm ˈʃɔː ˈʒɪli ˈwɒʃt hə ˈhændz]
/ʒ/	[ʒ]	voiced	between vd. sounds	[ˈleʒəz̥ əm ˈpleʒə]
	[ʒ̥]	devoiced	before and after vl. Cs and pauses	[ɪŋ ðə ˈgæz̥ɑːʒ̥]
/h/	[h]	voiceless	all positions	[hələːs hʌni]
/m/	[m]	voiced	all positions	[ˈmɒm əm ˈbetʃi]
/n/	[n]	voiced	all positions	[aːɪ ˈkʰɑːnt siː ˈneɪθn]
	[n̪]	dental	+ [θ, ð]	[ɒŋ ˈθɜːzdeɪ]
	[m̪]	labiodental	+ [f, v]	[ɪŋ ˈvenɪs ɒŋ ˈfʃɑːɪdeɪ]
	[ŋ]	velar	+ [g, k]	[ɪŋ ˈɡɹɪːs əŋ ˈkʰæneðə]
/ŋ/	[ŋ]	voiced	all positions	[ˈsɪŋŋ əˈlɒŋ]

/l/	[l]	voiced clear	+ Vs; + [j]	[ləʊ 'vælju:]
	[l̥]	devoiced clear	[p, t, k] + [l̥]	[p̥le:ɪ wɪð 'kle:ə]
	[ɫ]	voiced dark	[t] + C; + [w]; + pauses	[hi 'ɔ:twɛ:ɪz 'heɪp pi'pt̥]
	[ɫ̥]	dental dark	[t] + [θ, ð]	[gʊd̥ 'heɪθ]
/r/	[r]	voiced fricative	[d] + [r]	[d̥ra:ɪv tə ðɪs ə'dʒɪs]
	[ɹ]	approximant	before and between Vs; after [b, g, v]	[b̥ɹɪŋ ɹed ɹə'ʊzɪz]
	[r̥]	voiceless fricative	after [p, t, k]	[t̥ra:ɪ 'p̥ɹe'ɪɪŋ ɒn ə 'k̥u:z]
/j/	[j]	voiced	before vd sounds; after pauses	[ju 'lʊk 'jʌŋgə]
	[j̥]	devoiced	after [p, t, k]	[p̥j̥ɔ: əŋ 'kj̥u't]
/w/	[w]	voiced	before vd sounds; after pauses	[wet 'weðə]
	[w̥]	devoiced	after [p, t, k]	[k̥w̥a'ɪt̥ 'k̥w̥ɪk]

References

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