

A list of pronunciation symbols used in this dictionary is given below in the column headed **AHD**. The column headed **Examples** contains words chosen to illustrate how the **AHD** symbols are pronounced. The letters that correspond in sound to the **AHD** symbols are shown in boldface. The third column, headed **IPA** (International Phonetic

Alphabet), gives the equivalent transcription symbols most often used by scholars. Although similar, the **AHD** and **IPA** symbols are not precisely the same because they were conceived for different purposes. Additional information on pronunciation is given in the Guide to the Dictionary in the section headed "Pronunciation."

Examples	AHD	IPA	Examples	AHD	IPA
pat	ă	æ	out	ou	aʊ
pay	ā	e	pop	p	p
care	âr	ɛəɪ, eəɪ	roar	r	ɹ
father	ă	ɑ:, ɑ	sauce	s	s
bib	b	b	ship, dish	sh	ʃ
church	ch	tʃ	tight, stopped	t	t
deed, milled	d	d	thin	th	θ
pet	ě	ɛ	this	th	ð
bee	ē	i	cut	ŭ	ʌ
fife, phase, rough	f	f	urge, term, firm, word, heard	ûr	ʊ, ʊɪ
gag	g	g	valve	v	v
hat	h	h	with	w	w
which	hw	hw (also ɹ)	yes	y	j
pit	ĭ	ɪ	zebra, xylem	z	z
pie, by	ī	aɪ	vision, pleasure, garage	zh	ʒ
pier	îr	ɪəɪ, iəɪ	about, item, edible, gallop, circus	ə	ə
judge	j	dʒ	butter	ər	ə
kick, cat, pique	k	k	Foreign	AHD	IPA
lid, needle*	l (nēd'ɫ)	l, ɫ ['nidɫ]	French feu		ø
mum	m	m	German schön	œ	œ
no, sudden*	n (sūd'n)	n, ɲ ['sʌdn]	French œuf		œ
thing	ng	ŋ	German zwölf		
pot	ö	ɑ	French tu	ü	y
toe	ō	o	German über		
caught, paw	ô	ɔ	German ich		ç
core	ôr	ɔəɪ	German ach	ʰ	
noise	oi	ɔɪ	Scottish loch		x
took	oo	ʊ	French bon**	N (bôn)	~ [bõ]
lure	oor	ʊəɪ			
boot	oo	u			

*In English the consonants / and n often constitute complete syllables by themselves.

The IPA symbols show nasality with a diacritic mark over the vowel, whereas the dictionary uses N to indicate that the preceding vowel is nasalized. In French four nasalized vowels occur, as in the phrase *un bon vin blanc*: **AHD [œN (bôn) vãn blãN], **IPA** [œ̃ bõ vã̃ blã̃].