Hannah Lippard
Ling 103: Intro to Phonetics

Consonants in MAE (IPA → orthography)

1-to-1 matches

You hear:	You write:
/p/	p as in *pop*
/b/	b as in *bib*
/t/	t as in *tot*
/d/	d as in *dad*
/g/	g as in *gag*
/m/	m as in *mom*
/n/	n as in *nun*
/v/	v as in *van*
/z/	z as in *zoo*
/h/	h as in *hat*
/l/	l as in *lime*

Tricky symbols

You hear:	You write:
/θ/	th as in *path*
/ð/	th as in *gather*
/ɹ/	r as in *rare*
/ŋ/	ng as in *ring* n as in *ink*

Glides

You hear:	You write:
/j/	y as in *yes*
/ju/	u as in *cute*
/w/	w as in *wet* u as in *linguist*

Multiple spellings

You hear:	You write:	Or sometimes:
/k/	k as in *kit* c as in *cake* q as in *quick*	ch as in *school* ck as in *kick*
/ks/	x as in *box*	
/gz/	gs as in *bugs*	x as in *exist*
/f/	f as in *fin*	ph as in *phone* gh as in *tough*
/s/	s as in *sip*	c as in *face*
/ʃ/	sh as in *shield*	ch as in *cache*
/ʒ/	s as in *vision*	ʒ as in *mirage*
/tʃ/	ch as in *chair*	tch as in *catch*
/dʒ/	j as in *jump*	dg as in *edge* g as in *gem*

Silent letters to look out for

after m	before n	before l	before s	before r	before f/v/d	various
b: *tomb* n: *autumn*	g: *gnome* k: *knot* m: *mnemonic*	s: *island* t: *castle*	p: *psyche*	w: *wreath*	l: *calf, calves, could*	h: *herb, ghost, rhyme, vehicle, stomach*

For narrow transcription: Taps and glottal stops

- /t/ or /d/ → [ɾ] between two vowels, if the second vowel is unstressed, as in *metal, medal, otter, odder*
- /t/ → [ʔ] at the end of a word or before word-final /s/, as in *night, what, let's start*
- /t/ → [ʔ] before a syllabic /n/, as in *important, satin, button*

Vowels in MAE (IPA → orthography)

Monophthongs

You hear:	You write:	Or sometimes:
/ɪ/	*i* as in *bit*	*ee* as in *been* *ei* as in *forfeit* *ui* as in *build*
/i/	*ee* as in *feet* *ea* as in *heat* *e* as in *hero*	*i* as in *sink* *ei* as in *deceit* *ie* as in *thief* *ey* as in *key* *y* as in *poppy*
/æ/	*a* as in *cat*	*ai* as in *plaid* *au* as in *laugh*
/ɑ/	*o* as in *pot*	*a* as in *father*
/ʌ/	*u* as in *sun*	*o* as in *son*
/ɔ/	*a* as in *fall* *o* as in *cloth*	*au* as in *caught* *aw* as in *paw* *ou* as in *thought*
/ɛ/	*e* as in *bet*	*ai* as in *said* *ea* as in *bear* *ie* as in *friend*
/ʊ/	*u* as in *push*	*oo* as in *book*
/u/	*oo* as in *boot* *u* as in *rude*	*ui* as in *fruit* *ue* as in *blue*
/ə/	*a* as in *boba* *e* as in *omen*	*i* as in *cabin* *o* as in *person* *u* as in *awful* *oi* as in *porpoise* *y* as in *analysis*

Diphthongs

You hear:	You write:	Or sometimes:
/ej/	*a* as in *cake* *ai* as in *rain*	*ay* as in *pay* *au* as in *gauge* *ei* as in *rein*
/ow/	*o* as in *hope* *oa* as in *boat*	*ow* as in *low* *ou* as in *though*
/aj/	*i* as in *hike* *y* as in *cry*	*ui* as in *guide* *ie* as in *pie*
/aw/	*ou* as in *house*	*ow* as in *now* *ou* as in *bough*
/oj/	*oy* as in *toy*	*oi* as in *coin*

Rhotic vowels

You hear:	You write:	Or sometimes:
/ɚ/	*er* as in *river* *or* as in *color*	*ur* as in *lemur* *ir* as in *elixir*
/ɝ/	*er* as in *herd* *ir* as in *bird*	*ur* as in *curd* *or* as in *word*

Vowels in MAE (othography → IPA)

The English alphabet has 5 vowel letters – *a e i o u* – but these letters correspond to 15 vowel sounds in MAE.

Single vowel letter

You see:	You often say:	Or sometimes:
a	/æ/ as in *cat* /ej/ as in *cake*	/ɑ/ as in *father* /ɔ/ as in *fall*
e	/ɛ/ as in *web*	/i/ as in *here*
i	/ɪ/ as in *dip* /aj/ as in *hike*	/i/ as in *sink*
o	/ow/ as in *hope*	/ɑ/ as in *pot* /ɔ/ as in *cloth* /ʌ/ as in *son*
u	/ʌ/ as in *sun*	/ʊ/ as in *push* /u/ as in *rude*

The cot-caught *merger*

- Do the words *cot* and *caught* rhyme for you? How about *Don* and *dawn*?
- Your dialect might use [ɑ] for all these words (instead of [ɔ] for *dawn* and *caught*).
- This merger is particularly common in the Western United States.

Two vowel letters

You see:	You often say:	Or sometimes:
ai	/ej/ as in *rain*	/æ/ as in *plaid* /ɛ/ as in *said*
au	/ɔ/ as in *caught*	/ej/ as in *gauge* /æ/ as in *laugh*
ea	/i/ as in *dear*	/ɛ/ as in *bear*
ee	/i/ as in *feel*	/ɪ/ as in *been*
ei	/ej/ as in *rein* /i/ as in *neither*	/ɪ/ as in *forfeit*
ie	/aj/ as in *lie* /i/ as in *field*	/ɛ/ as in *friend*
oa	/ow/ as in *boat*	
oi	/oj/ as in *poise*	
oo	/u/ as in *boot*	/ʊ/ as in *book*
ou	/aw/ as in *house*	/u/ as in *ghoul* /ɔ/ as in *thought*
ue	/u/ as in *blue*	
ui	/u/ as in *fruit*	/ɪ/ as in *build* /aj/ as in *guide*

Vowel + glide letter

You see:	You often say:
ay	/ej/ as in *pay*
aw	/ɔ/ as in *paw*
ow	/ow/ as in *low* /aw/ as in *house*