

Unit 2: The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

ESL Phonetics & Pronunciation

A Clear Map of English Sounds

Unit Goal

By the end of Unit 2, you will understand what IPA is, how to read basic IPA symbols, and how to use IPA to learn correct pronunciation without guessing from spelling.

Big Idea

IPA shows sounds clearly — spelling does not. IPA is a tool that helps you see sounds instead of guessing.

Unit Lessons

- Lesson 2.1: What Is IPA (Really?)
- Lesson 2.2: Reading IPA in Dictionaries
- Lesson 2.3: Consonant Symbols (Part 1)
- Lesson 2.4: Consonant Symbols (Part 2)
- Lesson 2.5: Vowel Symbols (Short & Long Vowels)
- Lesson 2.6: Vowel Symbols (Diphthongs)
- Lesson 2.7: Schwa and Weak Sounds
- Lesson 2.8: Using IPA for Real Words

Unit 2 Review

- Read basic IPA symbols
- Use IPA to learn pronunciation of new words
- Identify vowel and consonant sounds
- Understand stress and weak sounds
- Stop guessing pronunciation

What Comes Next

After Unit 2, you will move on to stress, rhythm, and intonation to make your speech sound more natural.