

BBC MODIFIED SPELLING

KEY TO PRONUNCIATION

This anglicised system of indicating pronunciations is used throughout the BBC in all pronunciation indexes and publications.

STRESS is indicated by placing an acute accent ´
over the stressed vowel

VOWELS

a	as in "m <u>a</u> n", "m <u>a</u> rry"
aa (aar)	as in "f <u>a</u> ther", ("c <u>a</u> r", "c <u>a</u> rt")
air	as in "f <u>a</u> ir"
aw	as in "l <u>a</u> w" ("awr" is sometimes used where "or" would be ambiguous)
ay	as in "d <u>a</u> y"
e	as in "g <u>e</u> t", "m <u>e</u> rry"
ee (eer)	as in "b <u>e</u> ef", ("b <u>e</u> er") as occasion demands
ew (yoo at beginning of word)	as in "f <u>e</u> w"
i	as in "s <u>i</u> t", "m <u>i</u> rror"
ī with long mark (īr)	as in "h <u>i</u> gh", ("f <u>i</u> re") as occasion demands
o (or)	as in "n <u>o</u> t", "s <u>o</u> rry"; ("f <u>o</u> r") as occasion demands ("awr" is sometimes used where "or" would be ambiguous)
ō with long mark	as in "n <u>o</u> "
ö	as in Fr. "c <u>œ</u> ur", or "p <u>e</u> u" as occasion demands
oo	as in "m <u>oo</u> n"
ōō (ōōr)	as in "b <u>oo</u> k", ("p <u>oo</u> r") as occasion demands
ow	as in "n <u>ow</u> "
oy	as in "b <u>oy</u> "

u (ur)	u (ur) as in "pron <u>u</u> nciation", "h <u>u</u> m", "h <u>u</u> rry"; ("f <u>u</u> r") as occasion demands
ü	as in Fr. "v <u>u</u> " or as in Ger. "f <u>ü</u> nf" as occasion demands
a(ng)	as in Fr. "v <u>i</u> n"
aa(ng)	as in Fr. "bl <u>a</u> nc"
ō(ng)	as in Fr. "p <u>o</u> nt"
ö(ng)	as in Fr. "u <u>o</u> "

A short mark over a letter, thus, ă, ě, ŷ, ö, ű indicates the indeterminate vowel normally used in "ideaa", "thee", "commono", etc.

CONSONANTS

b	as in "bat"
ch (or tch)	as in "church"
<u>ch</u> when underlined	as in Sc. "loch" or Ger. "ich" as occasion demands
d	as in "dog"
f	as in "fit"
g	as in "get"
h	as in "hat"
<u>h</u> when underlined	as in Welsh "llan"
j	as in "Jack"
k	as in "king"
l	as in "live"
m	as in "man"
n	as in "nut"
ng	as in "singer"
ng-g	as in "finger"
p	as in "pat"

r as in "run", "overr"

Because the Modified Spelling is related as far as possible to the original spelling, the symbol 'r' is retained, without consonantal value, in the pronunciation system wherever it is orthographically present.

e.g. PARKER is rewritten as 'páarkĕr', not as 'páakĕr'.

s as in "sit"

sh as in "shut"

t as in "top"

th as in "thin"

th when underlined as in "there"

v as in "vat"

w as in "will"

y as in "yes"

z as in "zebra"

zh when underlined as 's' in "measure"

EXAMPLES

Sir Anthony MEYER mí-ĕr (-ī as in "high")

Peter MEYER mair (-air as in "hair")

John Addington SYMONDS
(poet) símmǒndz

John SYMONDS (author) símǒndz (-ī as in "high")

Anthony POWELL pǒ-ĕl (-ō as in "no")

Enoch POWELL pów-ĕl (-ow as in "now")

Gennadiy ROZHDESTVENSKIY
gĕnáadi rozh-dyáystvĕnski
(-g as in "get";
-zh as 's' in "measure";
-ay as in "day")

As an example of a phrase containing the four French nasal vowels, we have:

UN BON VIN BLANC ö(ng) bō(ng) va(ng) blaa(ng)

January 2000