

**LONGMAN**

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**PRONUNCIATION  
DICTIONARY**

**STUDY GUIDE**

Clare Fletcher

**Longman Group UK Limited**  
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# INTRODUCTION

This study guide enables readers to make the best use of the Longman Pronunciation Dictionary. The dictionary and study guide together are a powerful aid to the study of English pronunciation.

## WHAT THE STUDY GUIDE CONTAINS

- Discussion of features of English pronunciation shown in the dictionary and explanation of the conventions used to show them.
- Exercises to develop effective use of the dictionary.
- Cross-references to relevant material in the dictionary's introduction and notes.
- Diagnostic exercises in the early sections to enable you to assess your proficiency and select appropriate material.
- Explicit statements of aims to show the purpose of each exercise.
- A key at the back of the book for checking the answers to exercises, where these are not immediately obvious from the dictionary.

The cassette provides three types of material:

- Illustration of pronunciations you see in the book and dictionary.
- Exercises.
- A means of checking your answers to certain exercises.

## HOW TO USE THE STUDY GUIDE

You can work through the guide from beginning to end, or you can plan your own programme to meet your needs.

### Planning a programme

- Look at the Contents List.
- Use the diagnostic exercises in the early sections.
- Look at the aims of sections and of specific exercises.
- Select the sections and exercises which are useful for you.

### **Using the commentary and exercises**

- It is always helpful to *say* the pronunciations you are reading, to make them clear and to fix them in your memory. This may not be possible, for example if you are working in a library. But if you are working by yourself, or with others also using the study guide, make a habit of saying the pronunciations.
- Always look up pronunciations in the dictionary when you are told to do so. In some exercises, the words to look up begin with the same letter, to speed up the search.
- Some exercises involve transcription; you can get further practice by transcribing any of the dialogues and texts in the book and cassette, and these are transcribed in the key at the back of the book.
- Look up cross-references to the introduction or notes in the dictionary, if you want to take a point further.




<i>RP Gen</i> <i>Am</i>	Consonants	<i>RP Gen</i> <i>Am</i>	Vowels
• •	p pen, copy, happen	• •	ɪ kit, bid, hymn
• •	b back, bubble, job	• •	e dress, bed
• •	t tea, tight, button	• •	æ trap, bad
• •	ʈ city, better	• •	ɒ lot, odd, wash
• •	d day, ladder, odd	• •	ʌ strut, bud, love
• •	k key, cock, school	• •	ʊ foot, good, put
• •	g get, giggle, ghost		
• •	tʃ church, match, nature	• •	i: fleece, sea, machine
• •	dʒ judge, age, soldier	• •	eɪ face, day, steak
		• •	aɪ price, high, try
• •	f fat, coffee, rough, physics	• •	ɔɪ choice, boy
• •	v view, heavy, move	• •	u: goose, two, blue
• •	θ thing, author, path	• •	əʊ goat, show, no
• •	ð this, other, smooth	• •	oʊ goat, show, no
• •	s soon, cease, sister	• •	ɒʊ variant in cold
• •	z zero, zone, roses, buzz	• •	aʊ mouth, now
• •	ʃ ship, sure, station	• •	ɪə near, here, serious
• •	ʒ pleasure, vision	• •	eə square, fair, various
• •	h hot, whole, behind	• •	ɑ: start, father
		• •	ɑ: lot, odd
• •	m more, hammer, sum	• •	ɔ: thought, law
• •	n nice, know, funny, sun	• •	ɔ: thought, law
• •	ŋ ring, long, thanks, sung	• •	ɔ: north, war
		• •	o: variant in force, four
• •	l light, valley, feel	• •	ʊə cure, poor, jury
• •	r right, sorry, arrange	• •	ɜ: nurse, stir
		• •	ɝ: nurse, stir, courage
• •	j yet, use, beauty	• •	i happy, radiation, glorious
• •	w wet, one, when, queen	• •	ə about, comma, comm
		• •	u influence, situation, annual
<i>In foreign words only:</i>		• •	ɪ intend, basic
• •	x loch, chutzpah	• •	ʊ stimulus, educate
• •	ʃ Llanelli, Hluhluwe		
		<i>In foreign words only:</i>	
		• •	ɔ̃ grand prix, chanson
		• •	õ: grand prix, chanson
		• •	õ: chanson
		• •	æ vint-et-un
		• •	ɜ̃: vint-et-un



# PRONUNCIATION AND VARIANTS

## 1 Characters used in phonemic transcription

 The chart on the previous page shows the characters which are used to transcribe pronunciations in the dictionary. The sounds and key words are recorded on the cassette, followed by the vowel sounds in sequence.

Within words, syllable boundaries are shown by spaces  
e.g. ,ɪn dɪ 'pend ənt

### EXERCISE 1

DIAGNOSTIC EXERCISE IN READING STRAIGHTFORWARD PHONEMIC TRANSCRIPTIONS QUICKLY AND ACCURATELY.

Time yourself as you do this exercise.

For each of the words a-j below, find the correct phonemic transcription in the list on the right. Write its number next to the word. The first one is done for you.

- |                  |   |                |
|------------------|---|----------------|
| a. await ....    | 5 | 1. kri 'eɪt ə  |
| b. billow ....   |   | 2. jet         |
| c. chose ....    |   | 3. 'ɒ rɪndʒ    |
| d. creature .... |   | 4. tʃɔʊz       |
| e. drudge ....   |   | 5. ə 'weɪt     |
| f. hurt ....     |   | 6. dʒet        |
| g. jet ....      |   | 7. bɪ 'ləʊ     |
| h. orange ....   |   | 8. 'sɜ:dʒ ənt  |
| i. sergeant .... |   | 9. ə 'reɪndʒ   |
| j. wrecked ....  |   | 10. hɔ:t       |
|                  |   | 11. drʌg       |
|                  |   | 12. 'bɪl əʊ    |
|                  |   | 13. rekt       |
|                  |   | 14. 'æv ɪd     |
|                  |   | 15. tʃɔɪs      |
|                  |   | 16. 'sɔ:dʒ ənt |
|                  |   | 17. 'kri:tʃ ə  |
|                  |   | 18. drʌdʒ      |
|                  |   | 19. 'retʃ ɪd   |
|                  |   | 20. hɜ:t       |

starting time:

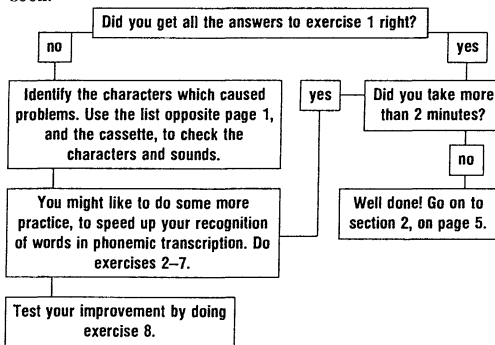
.....  
finishing time:

.....  
time taken:

.....

**KEY**

Check your answers to exercise 1 with the key at the back of book.

**EXERCISES 2-8**

AIM: TO PRACTISE RECOGNISING AND PRODUCING STRAIGHTFORWARD PHONEMIC TRANSCRIPTIONS.

**EXERCISE 2****KEY**

Look back at the transcriptions in exercise 1. Write the words represented by the ten transcriptions which did not match a-j

**EXERCISE 3**

Which word does each of the transcriptions below represent? Circle the correct word. Work as quickly as you can. The first one is done for you.

- |               |           |                 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. aɪs        | A<br>eyes | B<br><u>ice</u> |
| 2. 'æŋkəl     | ankle     | uncle           |
| 3. səʊl       | soil      | soul            |
| 4. brɪ:ð      | breathe   | breath          |
| 5. ə'vɔɪd     | avoid     | evade           |
| 6. θɪŋ        | thin      | thing           |
| 7. 'pəʊz ɪz   | possess   | poses           |
| 8. vaɪn       | vein      | vine            |
| 9. 'lu:v ə    | louvre    | lover           |
| 10. 'fɪ:l ɪŋz | fillings  | feelings        |

**KEY**

You can check your answers in the key and on the cassette.

## EXERCISE 4

**KEY** Look back at the pairs of words given in exercise 3. For each pair, transcribe the one not transcribed on the left.



## EXERCISE 5

Read the transcriptions below, and then listen to the eight words on the cassette. For each word, write the letter of the correct transcription beside the corresponding number. The first one is done for you.

**KEY**

- |            |             |             |              |
|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| a. 'leð ə  | e. 'kætʃ ə  | i. li:d ə   | m. 'kɒŋ kɔ:d |
| b. 'wɒʃ ɪŋ | f. lu:z     | j. eɪdʒ     | n. ə'laɪv    |
| c. kæ 'ʃiə | g. 'wɒtʃ ɪŋ | k. 'ɒl ɪv   | o. lu:z      |
| d. 'leɜ ə  | h. edʒ      | l. 'kɒŋ kəd | p. 'ledʒ ə   |
1. ..i. 2. .... 3. .... 4. .... 5. .... 6. .... 7. .... 8. ....

## EXERCISE 6

Look back at transcriptions a–p in exercise 5. Write the eight words shown which were not given on the cassette.

You can check your answers in the key and on the cassette.



## EXERCISE 7

In the following pairs of words, is the first syllable the same (S) or different (D)? Use the dictionary to check. The first two are done for you.

**KEY**

- |                |          |      |              |          |      |
|----------------|----------|------|--------------|----------|------|
| 1. worthy      | worried  | D    | 7. majestic  | magician | .... |
| 2. feral       | ferrous  | S    | 8. patient   | patio    | .... |
| 3. dynasty     | dynamite | .... | 9. southeast | southern | .... |
| 4. variegated  | various  | .... | 10. period   | pierrot  | .... |
| 5. vagary      | vagabond | .... | 11. nutrient | nutmeg   | .... |
| 6. vicissitude | vicar    | .... | 12. foreign  | forecast | .... |

**EXERCISE 8**

**Time yourself as you do this exercise.**

For each of the words a-j below, find the correct phonemic transcription in the list on the right. Write its letter next to the word. The first one is done for you.

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| a. season !9     | 1. 'sɪŋ ə     |
| b. wordy ....    | 2. fɔ 'nɛt ɪk |
| c. foreman ....  | 3. ə 'ɡen     |
| d. neuter ....   | 4. 'fɔ: mən   |
| e. phonetic .... | 5. 'næt ə     |
| f. sinner ....   | 6. fɪ:ld      |
| g. shield ....   | 7. jɪə        |
| h. organ ....    | 8. fɔ 'næt ɪk |
| i. please ....   | 9. 'sɪn ə     |
| j. jeer ....     | 10. 'pleʒ ə   |
|                  | 11. 'nju:t ə  |
|                  | 12. 'wɜ:d i   |
|                  | 13. 'sɪ:z ɪŋ  |
|                  | 14. dʒɪə      |
|                  | 15. plɪ:z     |
|                  | 16. sɪ:ld     |
|                  | 17. 'ɔ:g ən   |
|                  | 18. 'fɔ: neɪm |
|                  | 19. 'sɪ:z ən  |
|                  | 20. 'wɜ:ð i   |

starting time:
.....
finishing time:
.....
time taken:
.....

Check your answers with the key. Did you do better than in exercise 1? Were you more accurate and/or quicker?

## What pronunciations are given: the layout of entries

For every word the dictionary gives a main pronunciation. This is highlighted in blue. If the American pronunciation is different, it is given, following the symbol ||, and also highlighted in blue. If no separate American pronunciation is given, this means that the word has the same pronunciation in British and American English.

**match** mætʃ

**dot, Dot** dɒt || dɑ:t

If there are widely used alternatives, either in British or American English, these are given. Some alternatives are characteristic of British regional accents, and are marked †.

**data** 'deɪtə 'dɑ:tə, †'dætə || 'deɪtə 'dætə, 'dɑ:tə

**bath** v bɑ:θ †bæθ

Occasionally, pronunciations are shown which many English speakers use, but which many other English speakers consider incorrect. These are marked †.

**ate** *past of eat* et eɪt || eɪt †et

(In American English et is considered incorrect.)

The dictionary entries below are labelled to show the pronunciations given.

1. **curve** kɜ:v || kɜ:v (main, AmE)
2. **lieu** ju: lju: (main, alternative)
3. **tour** tuə tɔ: || tu'r (main, alternative, AmE)
4. **mask** mɑ:sk †mæsk || mæsk (main, regional, AmE)
5. **raw** rɔ: || rɔ: rɔ: (main, AmE, AmE alternative)
6. **unguent** 'ʌŋ gwənt 'ʌŋ ɡju\_ənt, †'ʌndʒənt (main, alternative, 'incorrect')

**EXERCISE 9**

**AIM: TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE LAYOUT OF ENTRIES, AND RECOGNISE THE TYP PRONUNCIATION SHOWN.**

**KEY**

1. **pond, Pond** pɒnd || pɑ:nd

2. **sue** sju: su:

3. **pearl, Pearl** pɜ:l || pɜ:l

4. **rare** reɪ || reɪr rɛɪr

5. **poor** pɔ: puə || pɔʔr

6. **nude** nju:d tnu:d || nu:d nju:d

7. **ask** ɑ:sk tæsk, Δɑ:ks || æsk

8. **last, Last** lɑ:st flæst || læst

9. **four** fɔ: || fɔ:r fɔ:r

## EXERCISE 10

AIM: TO RECOGNISE THE TYPES OF PRONUNCIATION GIVEN, AND PRACTISE TRANSCRIBING THEM.

Study the dictionary entries printed below.

Then use the information to complete the boxes on the following page.

**match** mætʃ

**ballad** 'bæləd

**mead** mi:d

**lewd** lu:d lju:d

**sult** su:t sju:t

**mark, Mark** mɑ:k || mɑ:rk

**dot, Dot** dɒt || dɑ:t

**herb** hɜ:b || ɜ:b

**part** pɑ:t || pɑ:rt

**bath** v bɑ:θ tɒθ

**past** pɑ:st tpeɪst || pæst

**mayor, Mayor** meɔ || 'meɪ\_r meʔr

**broad, Broad** brɔ:d || brɔ:d brɑ:d

**ballet** 'bæleɪ || bæ'leɪ 'bæleɪ

**bare** beə || beʔr bæʔr

**new** nju: tnu: || nu: nju:

**tube** tju:b → tʃu:b || tu:b tju:b

## KEY

	Main pron
1. match	mætʃ
2. ballad	
3. mead	

	Main pron	Alternative pron
4. lewd	lu:d	lju:d
5. suit		

	Main pron	AmE pron
6. mark	mɑ:k	mɑ:rk
7. dot		
8. herb		
9. part		

	Main pron	Regional pron	AmE pron
10. bath	bɑ:θ	bæθ	bæθ
11. past			

	Main pron	AmE pron	Alternative AmE pron
12. mayor	meɔ	meɪ_ər	meɪr
13. broad			
14. ballet			
15. bare			

	Main pron	Regional pron	AmE pron	Alternative AmE pron
16. new	nju:	nu:	nu:	nju:
17. tube				



**EXERCISE 11**

**AIM: TO IDENTIFY WHICH PRONUNCIATION OF A WORD IS USED, WHEN YOU HEAR IT.**

Listen to the speakers on the cassette. Notice their pronunciation of the words studied on pages 7–8. Transcribe the words as they pronounce them, and identify which of the variant pronunciations they use. You might like to say whether you think each speaker is English or American. The first one is done for you.

	Transcription	Which pron?	English or American?
Speaker 1: mark	mɑ:k	main	<i>English with a regional accent</i>
past	pæst	regional (or AmE)	
mayor			
Speaker 2: tour			
part			
poor			
Speaker 3: rare			
new			
suit			
ballet			
Speaker 4: Tube			
last			
four			

For those interested in studying some of the differences between American and British English pronunciation, there is a section on American pronunciation on pages 65–70. Regional pronunciations are discussed in LPD Introduction 2.2.

### 3 Alternative pronunciations

In order to present information concisely, alternative pronunciations are often abbreviated. To get the most out of the dictionary, it is important to be able to interpret the conventions which are used.

#### EXERCISE 12

DIAGNOSTIC EXERCISE IN INTERPRETING INFORMATION ABOUT ALTERNATIVE PRONUNCIATIONS.

How many pronunciations are represented in this entry from the dictionary?

**beautiful** 'bjʊ:t əf əl -ɪf-; -ɪ fʊl, -ə- || 'bjʊ:tɪ-

#### KEY

When you have worked out what you think, check your answer in the key.

If you got the right answer, you made good use of the conventions which enable the dictionary to present so much information in such a small space. You do not need to work through exercises 13–16. Go straight on to page 15.

If you didn't spot all the pronunciations of **beautiful**, you might like to go back now and try to work them out for yourself before you look at the details below and listen to the pronunciations on the cassette.



'bjʊ:t əf əl    -ɪf-;    -ɪ fʊl, -ə- ||    'bjʊ:tɪ-  
                   1 2            3 4            5    6            7-12

1. The main pronunciation, the one recommended to foreign learners, is 'bjʊ:t əf l
2. Alternative pronunciation: 'bjʊ:t əf əl  
 The other alternatives all have the same first syllable as the main pronunciation, so this syllable is not repeated; it is replaced by a hyphen (-).
3. & 4. An alternative pronunciation of the middle syllable:  
 'bjʊ:t ɪ f l    'bjʊ:t ɪ f ə l
5. An alternative pronunciation – a different pronunciation of the final syllable: 'bjʊ:t ɪ fʊl

6. The same first and last syllable as 5 with a different middle syllable: 'bju:t ə fəl

The American pronunciation has a different allophone of t in the first syllable. The main American pronunciation is therefore:

7. 'bju:t̬ ə fəl

The alternative pronunciations of the middle and last syllables shown in 2–6 also occur in American pronunciations, so alternatives exist:

8. 'bju:t̬ ə fəl  
 9. 'bju:t̬ ɪ fəl  
 10. 'bju:t̬ ɪ fəl  
 11. 'bju:t̬ ɪ fəl  
 12. 'bju:t̬ ə fəl

The example above shows how much information a brief entry can contain. The conventions for showing alternative pronunciations are studied systematically in the rest of this section.

### EXERCISES 13–17

AIM: TO UNDERSTAND THE CONVENTIONS USED TO ABBREVIATE ALTERNATIVE PRONUNCIATIONS FOLLOWING THE MAIN PRONUNCIATION.

When alternative pronunciations differ only in one syllable, the dictionary shows the part of the word which is different, and the rest of the word is 'cut back'.

#### Alternatives at the beginning of a word

**astrology** ə 'strɒl ədʒi (æ-) ||-'strɔ:l-

This means that there is an alternative pronunciation, æ'strɒl ədʒi. Only the first syllable is different. This is given in the dictionary, and the rest of the pronunciation is represented by a hyphen (-).

**EXERCISE 13**

The following words all have one or more alternative pronunciations of the first syllable. (The number in brackets shows the number of alternatives.)

- a. Can you think what the alternatives are? Write what you think.  
 b. Look the words up in the dictionary, and note the alternatives shown. Correct what you wrote, if necessary.

1. **accept** ək'sept (2) .....
2. **behave** bi'hæv (2) .....
3. **desolation** ,des ə'leiʃn (1) .....
4. **economic** ,i:k ə'nɒmɪk (1) .....
5. **exult** ɪg'zʌlt (5) .....

**Alternatives at the end of a word**

**manage** 'mænɪdʒ (-ədʒ)

This means that there is an alternative pronunciation 'mæn ədʒ. The first syllable, which is the same, is not repeated; instead it is replaced by a hyphen.

**astronaut** 'æstrɒnɔ:t (nɔ:t -nɔ:t)

This means that Americans pronounce the final syllable with a different vowel; the final syllable is given (with an alternative), and the first two syllables, which are the same as the main English pronunciation, are replaced by a hyphen.