



Glossary of Phonetic Alphabets

Mastering The Phonetic Alphabets

The various phonetic alphabets available in WordBuilder are listed here along with examples of English words to help contextualize the sound of each symbol.

The Phonetic and Votox alphabets share a close relationship, but the Votox alphabet was designed exclusively for WordBuilder for the sole purpose of notating individual sounds that, when combined, form words that are sung (as opposed to simply words on a page).

We recommend learning Votox mode, because it's the Text Mode that WordBuilder uses to construct words, and gives you direct control over each component sound of a word. The English and Phonetic text modes are useful, but are ultimately converted to Votox mode for WordBuilder to make use of.

Choosing Between Latin and English Modes

The Votox alphabet has English and Latin text modes that use different sets of Votox symbols for vowels (and only vowels). The choice does not affect the sound of the words, only the symbols used to represent them.

Speakers of Romance languages may feel more comfortable using Votox in Latin Mode, as the symbols more closely reflect spellings in Romance languages. To change modes, go to [The Options Dialog](#) and select “English Mode” or “Latin Mode”.

Phonetic Alphabet Guides

This section contains several tables that list the phonetic alphabet symbols used in each of the available text modes. Separate tables break them down into their respective text modes, and/or by word type.

Phonetic Alphabets With English and Latin Vowels

This table contains all the symbols used in the Phonetic alphabet, and the Votox alphabet in both English and Latin modes.

Use the English pronunciation guide for context on how each symbol sounds by reading the words out loud to decide which of the symbols used to represent the phoneme seem most natural to you.

This chart contains all word types; vowels, diphthongs, pitched consonants and non-pitched consonants.

- **Vowel** is a speech sound produced by vibrating vocal chords with an open vocal tract.
- **Diphthong** is a sound made up of two vowels are cross-faded within a single syllable.
- **Pitched Consonants** are speech sounds produced with vocal chords engaged (voiced).
- **Non-Pitched Consonant** are speech sounds produced with breath only (unvoiced).

EASTWEST HOLLYWOOD CHOIRS

PHONETIC ALPHABETS TABLE

| Phonetic | Votox | | Pronunciation |
|----------|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | Latin Mode | English Mode | |
| a | A | u | money, rough |
| a! | a | a | copper, wander |
| Ai | ai | aE | white, sigh |
| Au | Au | uO | brown, mouse |
| b | b | b | blue, slab |
| c! | C! | C! | chair, catch |
| - | h! | h! | nacht (night) |
| d | d | d | red, candor |
| d! | t! | t! | the, neither |
| e | e | e | red, steady |
| e! | a! | A | black, after |
| Ei | Ei | iE | grey, slate |
| f | F | F | file, enough |
| g | g | g | green, leg |
| g! | ng | ng | ping, hangar |
| h | H | H | hat, ahead |
| i | i | E | index, finger |
| i! | ii | EE | green, ski |
| j | j | j | orange, fidget |
| k | K | K | black, coal |
| l | l | l | blue, less |
| m | m | m | money, hammer |
| n | n | n | green, snug |
| o | o | o | orange, naughty |
| Oi | oi | oE | oil, boy |
| Ou | ou | oO | yellow, ocean |
| p | P | P | pink, upper |
| - | Q | Q | quick, queen |
| r | r | r | red, car |
| r! | ur | ur | purple, lower |
| rr | r! | r! | rojo, perro |
| s | S | S | silver, lace |

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EASTWEST HOLLYWOOD CHOIRS

PHONETIC ALPHABETS TABLE

| Phonetic | Votox | | Pronunciation |
|----------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Latin Mode | English Mode | |
| t | T | T | white, true |
| t! | T! | T! | theme, sloth |
| u | U | U | put, could |
| u! | u | O | blue, pool |
| v | v | v | olive, avert |
| w | w | w | wait, awash |
| x | X | X | fix, excess |
| x! | S! | S! | flesh, nation |
| y | y | y | yellow, yonder |
| z | z | z | zero, poison |
| z! | zj | zj | vision, azure |

Vowel Table

This table compares the differences between the symbols used to represent vowels in the English and Latin modes. Read the example words out loud and decide which of the vowels to the left seems most natural.

PLEASE NOTE! In the first four rows, the English and Latin versions of the vowels are the same, but in the rest of the rows, they differ.

VOTOX VOWELS

| English Mode | Latin Mode | Pronunciation |
|--------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| a | a | money, rough |
| e | e | red, steady |
| o | o | orange, naughty |
| U | U | put, could |
| u | A | copper, wander |
| A | a! | black, after |
| E | i | index, finger |
| O | u | pool, blue |
| i | E | only used in diphthongs (see below) |

Diphthongs Table

This table compares the differences between the symbols used to represent diphthongs in the English and Latin modes. Diphthongs are sounds made up of two vowels sounds.

VOTOX DIPHTHONGS

| English Mode | Latin Mode | Pronunciation |
|--------------|------------|------------------------------|
| aE | ai | white, sigh |
| uO | Au | brown , mouse |
| iE | Ei | gray , slate |
| EE | ii | green , ski |
| oE | oi | oil , boy |
| oO | ou | yellow , ocean |
| ur | Ar | purple , lower |