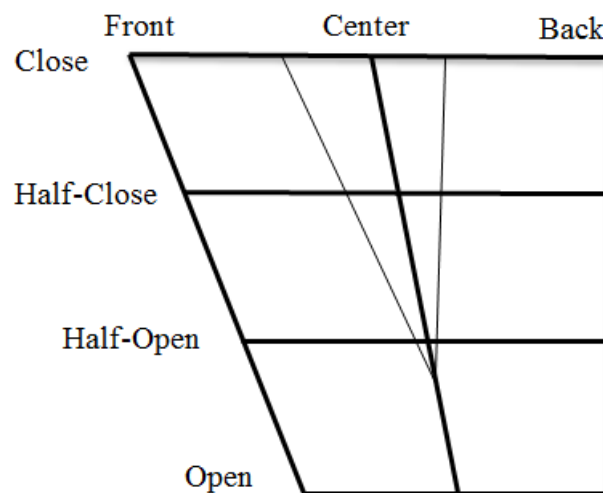


Phonetics

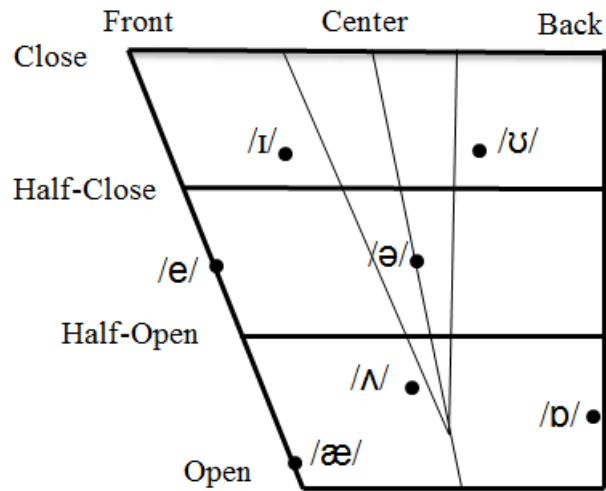
First year
Department of English
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Instructor: **Dr. Wasan Alsiraih**

Vowel Sounds

Vowel Diagram: This diagram represents the tongue, its parts and its movement between the different positions when producing vowel sounds. The close-front represents the tip of the tongue. The close position is the nearest that the tongue reaches the palate without making friction or a closure. The open position is the widest the mouth can open and the furthest distance the tongue can reach away from the roof the mouth (palate).



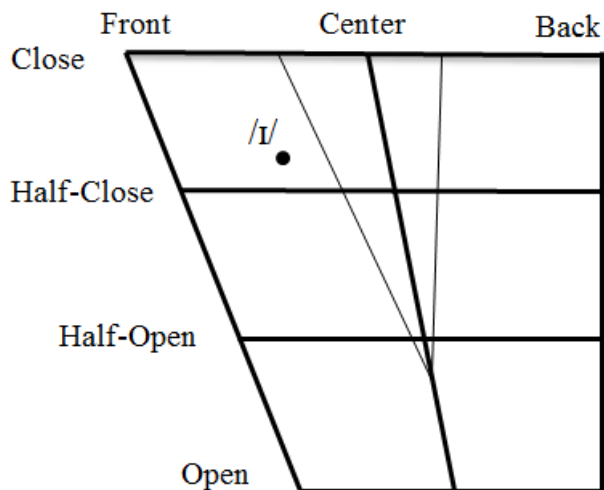
Short Vowels



/ɪ/

- It is a short vowel.
- It is front, but not very front. It is near the centre.
- It is close, but not very close. It is near the half-close.
- The lips are spread.

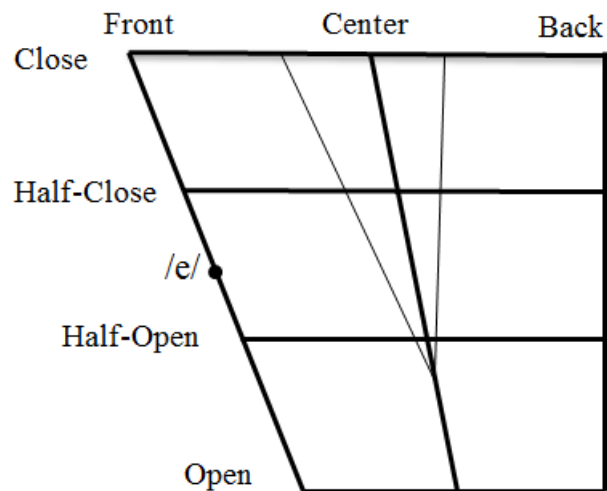
Examples: sit /sɪt/ , lip /lɪp/ , him /hɪm/



/e/

- It is a short vowel.
- It is a very front vowel.
- It is exactly Mid, exactly between half-close and half-open.
- The lips are spread.

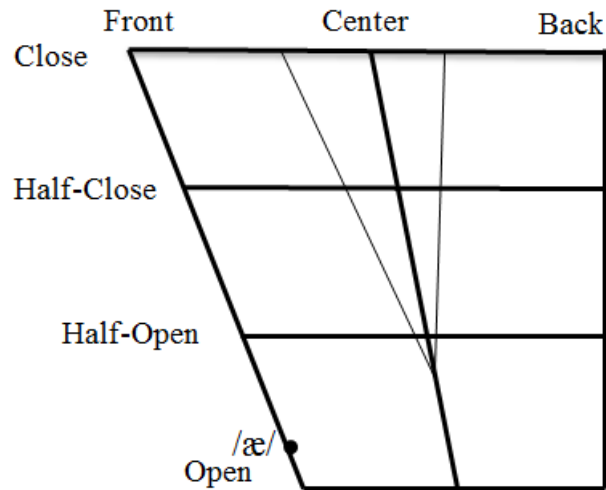
Examples: set /set/ , bell /bel/ , said /sed/



/æ/

- It is a short vowel.
- It is very front.
- It is open.
- The lips are spread.

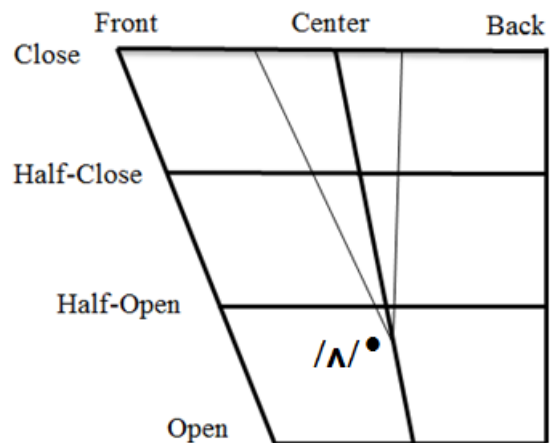
Examples: sat /sæt/ , cat /kæt/ , back /bæk/



/ʌ/

- It is a short vowel.
- It is central.
- It is open, but not very open. It is near the half-open.
- The lips are neutral.

Examples: up /ʌp/ , cup /kʌp/ , but /bʌt/



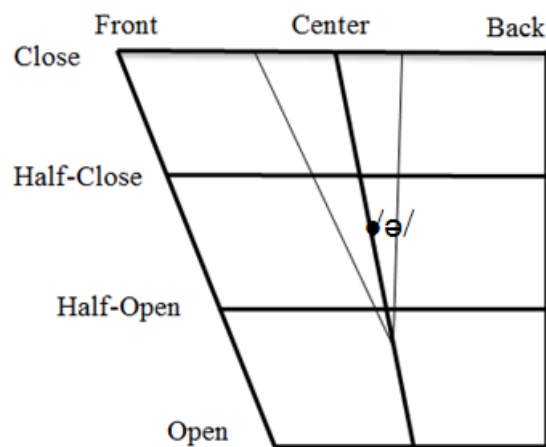
/ə/

- This vowel is the most frequent occurring vowel in English. It is always associated with weak syllables. It is described as lax which means it is not

articulated with much energy which makes it the weakest vowel in English.

- It is a short vowel.
- It is exactly central.
- It is exactly mid, exactly between half-close and half-open.
- The lips are neutral.

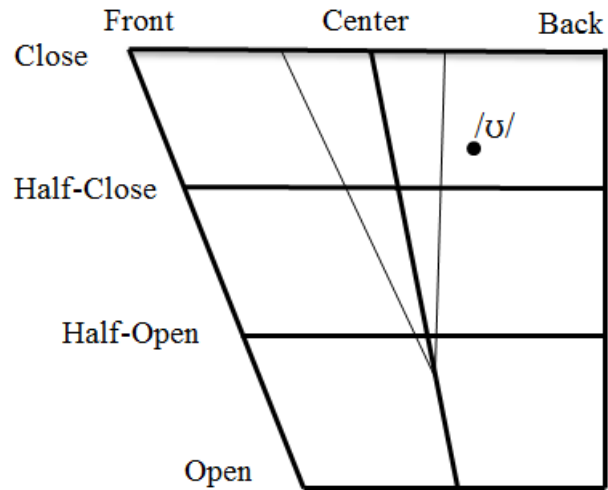
Examples: sister /sɪstə/ , ahead / əhed/ , offer /ɒfə/



/ʊ/

- It is a short vowel.
- It is back, but not very back. It is near the centre.
- It is close, but not very close. It is near the half-close.
- The lips are rounded.

Examples: put /pʊt/ , foot /fʊt/ , book /bʊk/



/ɒ/

- It is a short vowel.
- It is a back vowel, but not very back.
- It is open, but not very open. It is near the half-open.
- The lips are rounded.

Examples: hot /hɒt/, box /bɒks/, off /ɒf/

