

PHONETICS FOR FINNISH LEARNERS

Introduction

Typical for Finnish 1

- Typically, one letter corresponds to one sound and one sound corresponds to one letter.

a [ɑ]

cat [k^hæt]

car [khaɑ(ɹ)]

cable [kheɪbl]

Typical for Finnish 2

- Both short and long sounds exist. Duration distinguishes meanings.

tule [tule]

tuulee [tuulee]

tuli [tuli]

tulli [tulli]

Typical for Finnish 3

- The main stress of a word is always on the first syllable, not on the other syllables.
 - In speech only important words are strongly emphasized.
- The intonation typically falls towards the end, also in questions.

What is pronunciation?

- Important to know:
 - position of the tongue
 - position of the lips
 - how the air flows
- **Pronunciation is about controlling these elements.**

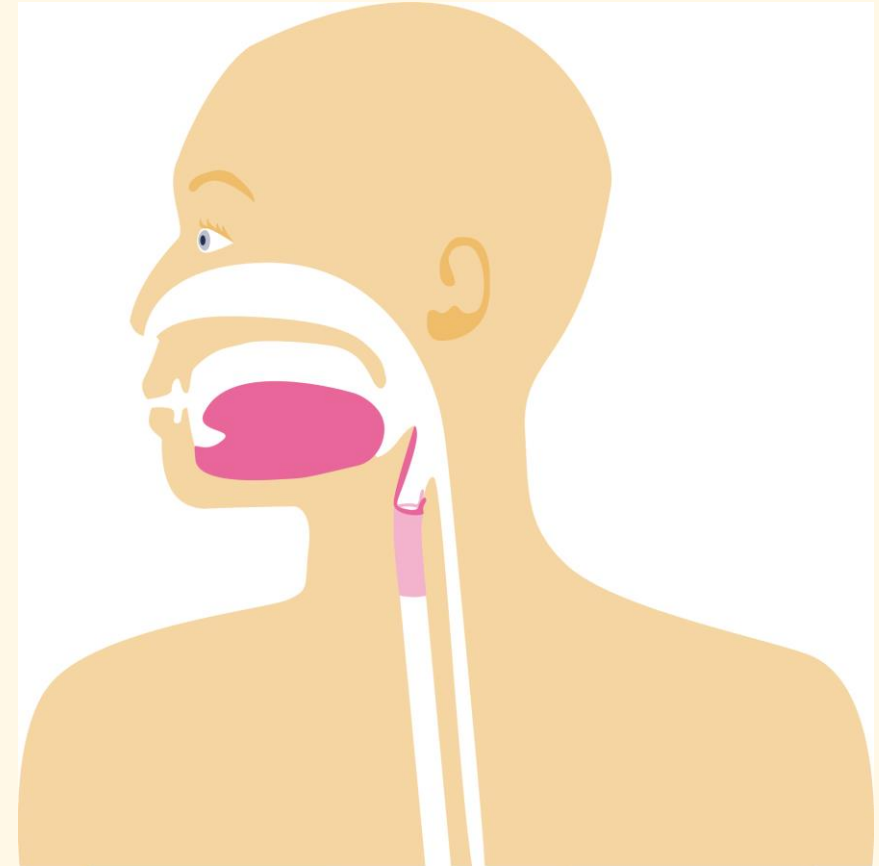


Image: Aino Huhtaniemi

International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (revised to 2020)

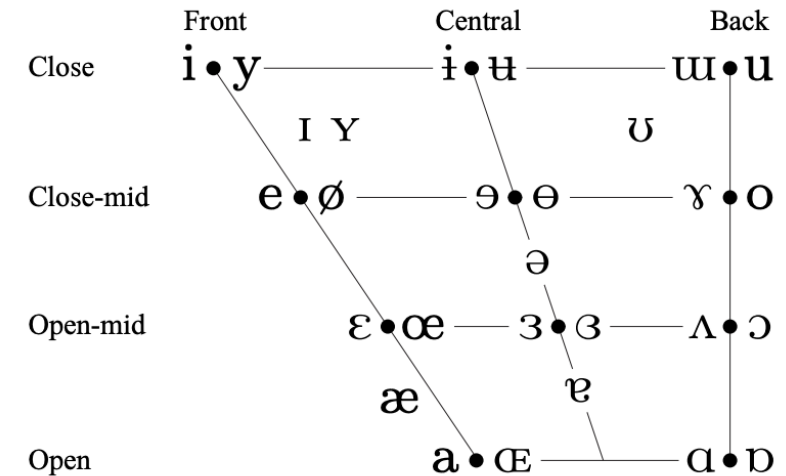
CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

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	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ		
Trill	ʙ			r					ʀ		
Tap or Flap		ⱱ		ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

Symbols to the right in a cell are voiced, to the left are voiceless. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

VOWELS



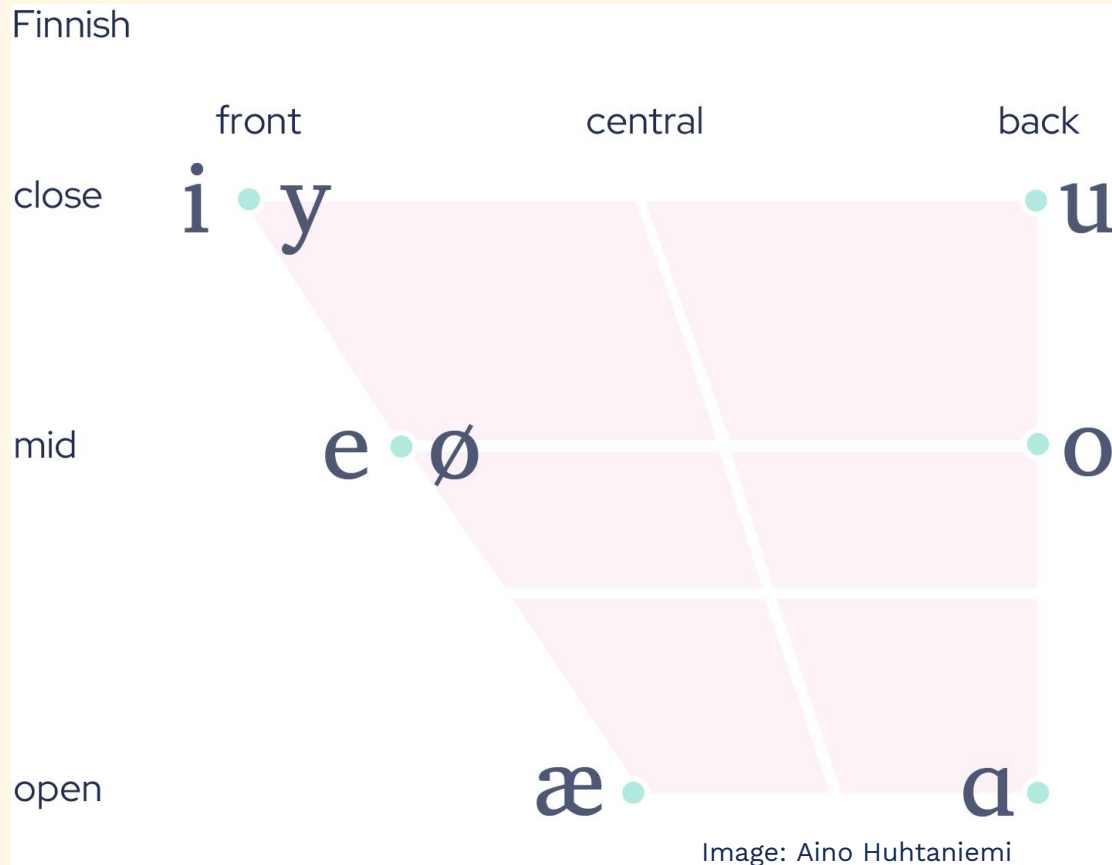
Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.

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Vowels and consonants

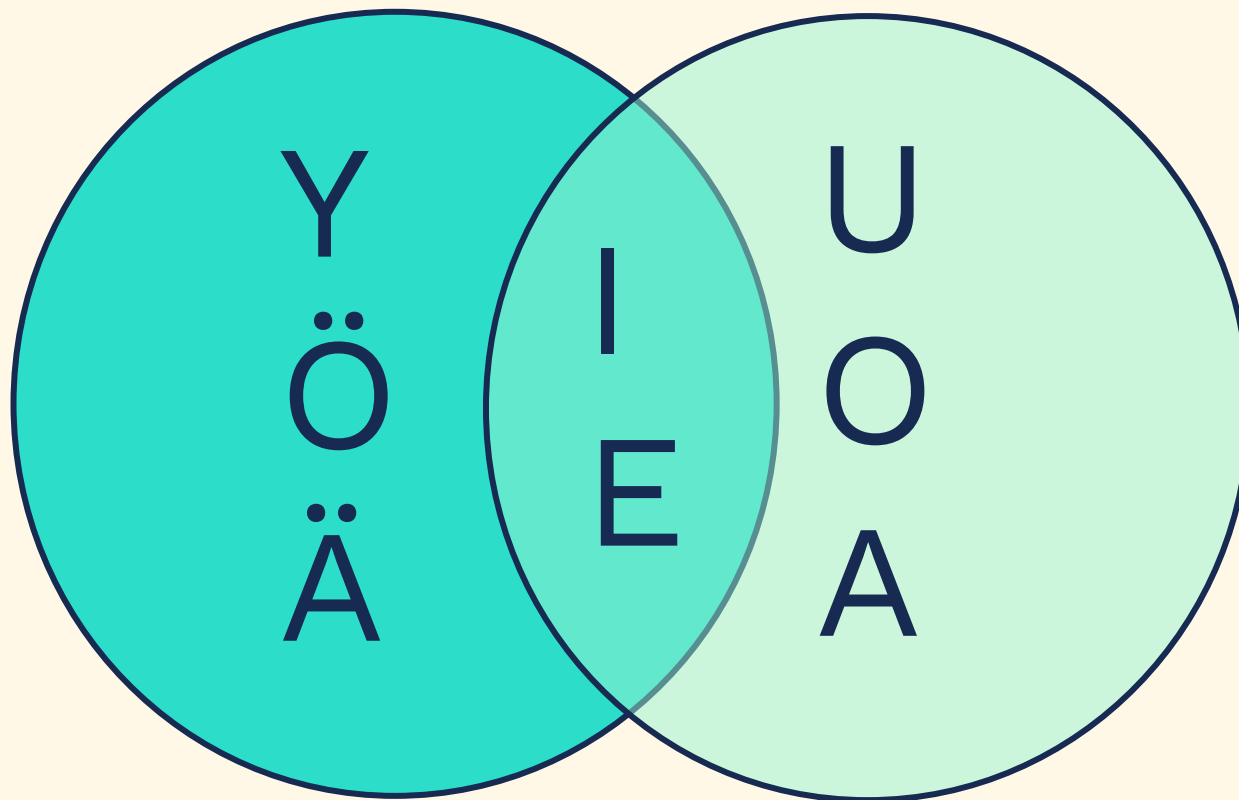
- Finnish has
 - 8 vowel sounds: [ɑ], [e], [i], [o], [u], [y], [æ], and [ø].
 - 18 consonant sounds: [m], [n], [ŋ], [p], [b], [t], [d], [k], [g], [s], [ʃ], [h], [v], [f], [l], [j], [r] + [ʔ].

Finnish IPA chart: vowels



- **Vowel backness** is named for the horizontal position of the tongue during articulation.
 - Finnish vowels **a**, **o** and **u** are **back vowels**.
 - Finnish vowels **e**, **i**, **ä**, **ö** and **y** are **front vowels**.
- **Vowel height** refers to the vertical position of the tongue during articulation.
 - Finnish vowels **i**, **y** and **u** are **close vowels**.
- **Vowel roundedness** refers to the position of the lips during articulation.
 - Rounded vowels of Finnish are **o**, **ö**, **u** and **y**.

Vowel harmony



Finnish IPA chart: consonants

Finnish		place of articulation							
		bilabial	labio-dental	dental	alveolar	post-alveolar	palatal	velar	glottal
manner of articulation	plosive	p b		t	d			k g	ʔ
	nasal	m		n				ŋ	
	trill			r					
	fricative		f		s	ʃ		h	
	approximant		ʋ				j		
	lateral approximant			l					

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