

The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is a system of phonetic notation designed to accurately represent the sounds of spoken language. It includes symbols for every sound (phoneme) in human languages, providing a consistent way to transcribe pronunciation across different languages.

Here's a brief overview of some key IPA symbols and their uses:

Consonants

- **Plosives:**
 - [p] as in **pat**
 - [b] as in **bat**
 - [t] as in **tap**
 - [d] as in **dad**
 - [k] as in **kit**
 - [g] as in **got**
- **Fricatives:**
 - [f] as in **fan**
 - [v] as in **van**
 - [s] as in **sun**
 - [z] as in **zoo**
 - [ʃ] as in **she**
 - [ʒ] as in **suggest**
- **Nasals:**
 - [m] as in **man**
 - [n] as in **nice**
 - [ŋ] as in **sing**
- **Liquids:**
 - [l] as in **lip**
 - [r] as in **run**
- **Glides:**
 - [w] as in **wet**
 - [j] as in **yes**

Vowels

- **Front Vowels:**
 - [i] as in **see**
 - [e] as in **bay**
 - [ɛ] as in **bet**
 - [æ] as in **cat**
- **Central Vowels:**
 - [ɨ] as in **sister** (not common in English)
 - [ə] as in **about** (schwa)
- **Back Vowels:**
 - [u] as in **boot**
 - [o] as in **go**
 - [ɔ] as in **dog**
 - [ɑ] as in **father**

Other Symbols

- **Tone and Stress Markers:**
 - [ˈ] marks primary stress (e.g., **record** [ˈrɛkɔrd])
 - [ˌ] marks secondary stress (e.g., **record** [ˌrɛkɔrd])
 - [˥] high tone
 - [˩] low tone
- **Diacritics:**
 - [ː] indicates length (e.g., **beat** [biːt])
 - [h] indicates aspiration (e.g., **pot** [pʰɒt])
 - [j] indicates palatalization (e.g., **tune** [tʃun])

The IPA provides a detailed and accurate way to represent the pronunciation of words, making it an essential tool for language learning, linguistics, and phonetics. If you need specific IPA symbols for particular words or sounds, just let me know!