

Say what you see, in your normal voice. Then look at the different regional pronunciations in the table below.



Word	Phonetic transcription		
	Southern English (RP)	Northern English	US (General American)
<b>bath</b>	bɑ:θ	bæθ	bæθ
<b>gasp</b>	gɑ:sp	gæsp	gæsp
<b>pass</b>	pɑ:s	pæs	pæs

You may want to develop your own table(s) that illustrate such variations and consider using images to help students memorise the pronunciation of certain words they find challenging to pronounce.

**/ɔ:/** Examples: ***saw, lord, fought, sword***

This is a back vowel, between the half-open and half close positions in the mouth, with quite a pronounced degree of lip-rounding.

**/u:/** Examples: ***soon, boot, lose, glue***

This is a close, back vowel which is made with lips fully rounded.

Of course there are variations on all the above vowels but the examples offer a general view of the system.

You may notice that, especially in non-RP dialects, some of the long vowels have a tendency towards becoming diphthongs. For instance, you may know of people who vary the pronunciation of:

soon from **/su:n/** to **/su:ən/**

school from **/sku:l/** to **/sku:əl/**

cord from **/kɔ:d/** to **/kɔ:əd/** [you may also hear **/kɔ:rd/**]

Usually, this kind of diphthongisation – or the gliding from one vowel to another so that they are pronounced as a single phoneme – involves a glide to the schwa position, the central unstressed vowel. But before we come on to diphthongs in English, let us point you towards a couple of great websites to help your students!