

Phonetic Guide

Pronunciation is an important part in language learning. This guide describes how a particular alphabet should be pronounced. We are using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) in the dictionary as well as in the description of the languages (North–East India) available in our web site. The chart given below shows how one can correlate the IPA symbols to the normal orthography.

Key to phonetic symbols used to represent Assamese and Manipuri words
(For the English speaker)

Consonants

IPA	English word	Phonetic representation
p	keeper	kipɔ(r)
b	ben	ben
t	peter	˘pitɔ(r)
d	den	den
k	taker	˘teikɔ(r)
g	get	get
ph	upholstery	ʌp˘hɔʊlstɔ(r)
bh	subheading (sub + heading)	˘sʌbhediŋ
th	thathouse (that + house)	ðæthaus
dh	woodhouse	wudhaus
kh	thickhat (thick + hat)	θikhæt
gh	bighouse (big + house)	bighaus
m	man	mæn
n	no	nɔʊ
ŋ	sing	siŋ
s	so	sɔʊ
z	zoo	zu
x	no equivalent in standard English but similar to ich (German)	ix
h	hot	hot
r	red	red
l	leg	leg

Vowels

IPA	English word	Phonetic representation
i	pin	pin
e	pen	pen
ɛ	pat (in the production of vowels the upper surface of the tongue is always convex , hence the result in tongue height . In this context it may be mentioned that Asamiya / ɛ / is slightly higher than English /æ / as in / pæt /	pæt
a	farm	fam
u	too	tu
ʊ	put	put
o	saw	so
ɔ	got	gɔt

Key to phonetic symbols used to represent Assamese words
(For the Assamese speaker)

Consonants

IPA	Phonetic representation	Assamese word
p	pat	পাত
b	bat	বাট
t	tat	তাত
d	dam	দাম
k	kat	কাট
g	gal	গাল
ph	phat	ফাট
bh	bhat	ভাত
th	thak	থাক
dh	dhak	ঢাক
kh	khat	খাট
gh	ghat	ঘাট
m	mat	মাত
n	nat	নাট
ŋ	siŋa	চিঙা
s	sat	সাত
z	zat	জাত
x	xat	সাত
h	hat	হাত
r	ruti	ৰুটি
l	luti	লুটি

Vowels

IPA	Phonetic representation	Assamese word
i	xil	শিল
e	bex	বেশ
ɛ	bɛs	বেচ
a	bas	বাচ
u	khur	খুৰ
ʊ	khʊl	খোল
o	bol	ব'ল
ɔ	bɔl	বল

