

Alphabet Sounds: A to Z Chart

All 26 letter sounds, with the ones Indian children find hardest marked in amber.

Say the **sound**, not the letter name. The letter is called "bee", but it says /b/ as in *bat*. Children who learn names first often cannot blend a word, because "bee-ay-tee" does not sound anything like "bat". Point at a letter, say its sound, have your child repeat it, then read the keyword together.

A a /æ/ apple	B b /b/ bat	C c /k/ cat	D d /d/ dog
E e /ɛ/ egg	F f /f/ fish	G g /g/ goat	H h /h/ hat
I i /ɪ/ ink	J j /dʒ/ jam	K k /k/ kit	L l /l/ lip
M m /m/ map	N n /n/ net	O o /ɒ/ ox	P p /p/ pan
Q q /kw/ queen	R r /r/ rat	S s /s/ sun	T t /t/ tap
U u /ʌ/ up	V v /v/ van	W w /w/ wet	X x /ks/ fox
Y y /j/ yes	Z z /z/ zip		

☐ Usually straightforward ☐ Commonly mis-articulated by Indian children — teach these explicitly

The amber traps worth knowing

Short vowels **a, e, i, o, u** are the first trap. Most Indian children stretch /æ/ into the longer "aa", so "apple" becomes "aapple". These five need more practice than the other twenty-one letters put together.

v and **w** are the second. Hindi does not consistently separate them, so "very" often becomes "wery". Say them together and let your child watch your lips: /v/ touches teeth to lip, /w/ rounds the lips. One to watch separately: many Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada speakers substitute /p/ for **f**, turning "fish" into "pish".