

Welcome to BL 1, Unit 1, lesson 1.

We're going to start the beginners course by looking at the English alphabet; Vowels, consonants and some basic speech and pronunciation.

So the English alphabet has only 26 letters the 5 vowels, 20 consonants and 1 letter that is usually a consonant but that is sometimes used as a vowel.

This letter is **Y**.

Some words that use **Y** as the vowel are:

Try, Fly, By, Sky and Why.

Here is the English alphabet with the vowel sounds highlighted.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

DID YOU KNOW?

Native speakers of different countries pronounce the **Z** sound differently.

In Australia, England, and New Zealand people pronounce it **Zed**.

In America and Canada people pronounce it **Zee**.

So here, again are the 5 main English Vowels A, E, I, O, U.

Let's practice them: A, E, I, O, U.

But, the English vowels have both **hard** and **soft** sounds. For example in the word **apple** the A vowel is soft; a, a apple. But in **ape** the vowel sound is hard. A, A, Ape.

Let's practice the hard and soft vowel sounds.

Hard Sound	Soft Sound
A	a
E	e
I	i
O	o
U	u

Now let's look at some words that have **hard** vowel sounds sounds:

Ace, Eat, Island, Owner, Use.

Now let's look at some words that have **soft** vowel sounds:

Ant, elephant, insect, octopus, umbrella.

Let's listen to a small sentence; try to hear which words have hard vowels

