## Main Vowel Sounds of American English Cheat Sheet

### /i/ AS IN MEET
1. **ee**  
   - meet, feel, see, free, sheet
2. **ea**  
   - team, reach, mean, sea
3. **ie and ei**  
   - belief, piece, neither, receive
4. **final e**  
   - me, we, she, he
5. **e + consonant + e**  
   - these, Chinese, Peter
6. **final y**  
   - city, duty, country, ability
7. **endings with ique**  
   - unique, boutique, critique

### /r/ AS IN GET
1. **e**  
   - get, end, next, general
2. **ea**  
   - heavy, head, read, measure

### /eɪ/ AS IN FUN*
1. **u**  
   - but, fun, summer, drunk
2. **o**  
   - love, done, come, son
2. **ou**  
   - cousin, country, enough

*The IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbol for the stressed vowel is /aɪ/ and for the unstressed vowel it is /æ/. They are basically the same sound. Throughout this book the /eɪ/ will be used for both. For further study of this reduced, neutral sound, refer to Chapter Five, which deals with syllable stress and reduced vowels.

### /r/ AS IN GOOD
1. **o**  
   - good, look, childhood, understood
2. **u**  
   - push, full, pull, sugar
3. **ould**  
   - would, could, should

### /r/ AS IN TIME
1. **y**  
   - fly, sky, apply, style
2. **i**  
   - nice, kind, fine, sign
3. **igh**  
   - light, fight, sight, night
4. **ie**  
   - lie, tie, tried

### /r/ AS IN SIT
1. **i**  
   - sit, give, this, dinner
2. **ui**  
   - build, quit, quick, guilty
3. **y between consonants**  
   - system, gym, symbol, hymn

### /r/ AS IN FAT
1. **a + consonant + e**  
   - late, came, take, save
2. **ai**  
   - rain, wait, pain, aim
3. **ay**  
   - say, away, play, Monday
4. **ey**  
   - they, survey, obey
5. **eigh**  
   - weigh, eight, neighbor, freight
6. **a**  
   - less common: April, alien, angel

### /r/ AS IN FATHER
1. **o**  
   - hot, stop, modern, job
2. **a**  
   - father, watch, dark, want

### /r/ AS IN SAW
1. **aw**  
   - saw, law, awful, awesome
2. **au**  
   - author, August, applaud, audition
3. **al**  
   - small, walk, tall, always
4. **ought**  
   - bought, thought, fought
5. **aught**  
   - daughter, caught
6. **o**  
   - gone, off, long

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## /ər/ AS IN BIRD

1. **er**  
   her, mercy, mother, winner
2. **ear**  
   heard, learn, earth
3. **ir**  
   first, girl, firm
4. **or**  
   doctor, word, worry
5. **ur**  
   occur, curtain, jury
6. **ure**  
   insecure, culture
7. **ar**  
   grammar, collar

## /ɔɪ/ AS IN BOY

1. **oi**  
   avoid, oil, moist, join
2. **oy**  
   enjoy, toy, employ, royal