

# The 44 Main English Phonemes

**b - boy**

**g - go**

**m - my**

**qu - quit**

**v - van**

**z - zebra**

**th - that**

**aw - paw**

**eh - ten**

**ih - win**

**or - for**

**c/k - cat**

**h - hat**

**n - not**

**r - red**

**w - wet**

**ch - chip**

**a - apple**

**ay - pay**

**er - cover**

**oa - boat**

**ou - loud**

**d - dog**

**j - job**

**ng - ring**

**s - sun**

**x - fix**

**sh\* - shop**

**air - fair**

**eer - cheer**

**ew - few**

(long)  
**oo - food**

**oy - boy**

**f - fit**

**l - late**

**p - pet**

**t - tip**

**y - yes**

**th\*\* - thin**

**ar - far**

**ee - feet**

**ie - tie**

(short)  
**oo - took**

**uh - cup**

\*An alternate phoneme, zh, is used in words ending in *-sion*, e.g., *confusion*, *illusion*, *revision*.

\*\*A voiced version of this phoneme is used in a small number of words, e.g., *though* and *that*.