The IPA Vowel Chart in Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Front</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>Back</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>unrounded</td>
<td>rounded</td>
<td>unrounded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close (high)</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(lower)</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>ø</td>
<td>©</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(upper)</td>
<td>ε</td>
<td>œ</td>
<td>ί</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(lower)</td>
<td>ε</td>
<td>œ</td>
<td>ί</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open (low)</td>
<td>æ</td>
<td>æ</td>
<td>æ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(upper)</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>æ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(lower)</td>
<td>æ</td>
<td>æ</td>
<td>æ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plus: Ω, a central vowel. Placed on the IPA chart between Upper and Lower Mid; normally used to show that a vowel is stressless and very short.

Sounds shown in italics will not appear in dictation exams.

IPA has different labels, with gaps. Rogers says “higher” for my “upper”; my usage is more common.

**Here**   **IPA**
upper high close
lower high (no official label)
upper mid close-mid
lower mid open-mid
upper low (no official label)
lower low open

Some IPA Diacritics Relevant to Vowels

- : long
- half long
- extra short
- voiceless
- raised
- lowered
- advanced
- retracted
- advanced tongue root
- creaky voiced
- breathy voiced
- nasaled
- less rounded
- more rounded
- retracted tongue root

1 No symbol is available. However, the symbol [a] is customarily used, without IPA sanction, for this very common vowel. It is recommended that use of [a] should be accompanied by an indication of whether a front or central vowel is meant, wherever the distinction is important.
Official IPA Version

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.