

Close up

Locate the pronunciation table/key in your dictionary. Complete the columns with the symbols and keywords your dictionary uses for the vowels.

	keywords	Most British Dictionaries / Books	Most American Dictionaries / Books	This Book	Your Dictionary	
					symbols	keywords
1	tea	i:	iy	i:		
2	big	ɪ	ɪ	ɪ		
3	pay	eɪ	ey	eɪ		
4	get	e	ɛ	ɛ		
5	cat	æ	æ	æ		
6	bar	ɑ:	ɑ	ɑ		
7	about	ə	ə	ə		
	bird	ɜ:	ər / ɜr	ɜr		
	but	ʌ	ʌ	ʌ		
8	not	ɒ	ɑ	ɑ		
9	four	ɔ:	ɔ	ɔ		
10	go	əʊ	ow	ou		
11	book	ʊ	ʊ	ʊ		
12	blue	u:	uw	u:		
13	my	aɪ	ay	aɪ		
14	cow	aʊ	aw	aʊ		
15	boy	ɔɪ	ɔy	ɔɪ		

Now analyze this chart, comparing the symbols. Which system is more similar to the one your dictionary uses? _____

It's very important to master the system in your dictionary. That's the one you're going to be referring to more frequently. Remember to use the pronunciation key/table. At the same time, it's also important to be able to recognize other common symbols used in other books and dictionaries.