

# 7: The Vowels of English

p. 79

(1)

# The Vowels

- Vowels are made by voiced air passing through different mouth shapes;
- the differences in the mouth shapes are caused by different positions of the tongue and of the lips.
- Vowels must be learned by *listening and imitating.*
- English speakers vary quite a lot in their vowels;
- the vowels used by an Australian, an American and a Scotsman in (*see*) are different, but they are all recognized quite easily as /i:/.

# 1. Simple Vowels (7+5 = 12)

- In your language you will have a vowel which is like the English /i:/ as in *see*, and one like the English /ʌ/ in *sun*, and /e/ in *get*.

**/e, ɪ, i: /**

- **/bed/ *bed***
- **/bɪd/ *bid***
- **/bi:d/ *bead***

li:d	lead	liɪd	lid	led	led
wi:t	wheat	wɪt	wit	wet	wet
bi:n	been	bɪn	bin	ben	Ben
tʃi:k	cheek	tʃɪk	chick	tʃek	check
fi:l	feel	fɪl	fill	fel	fell
ri:tʃ	reach	rɪtʃ	rich	retʃ	wretch

# 1. Simple Vowels

**/e, æ, ʌ/**

- The vowel between /e/ and /ʌ/ is /æ/.
- **/bed/ *bed***
- **/bæd/ *bad***
- **/bʌd/ *bud***

ten ten

tæn tan

tan ton

bet bet

bæt bat

bat but

pen pen

pæn pan

pan pun

seks sex

sæks sacks

saks sucks

ded dead

dæd Dad

dʌd dud

meʃ mesh

mæʃ mash

mʌʃ mush

# 1. Simple Vowels

**/ʌ, a:, ɒ/**

- In England when the doctor wants to look into our mouth an examine your throat he asks you to say *Ah*, that is the long vowel **/a: /**.
- For the short vowel **/ɒ /** the lips may be slightly rounded, for **/a: /** they are not.

lʌk	luck	lɑ:k	lark	lɒk	lock
kʌd	cud	kɑ:d	card	kɒd	cod
dʌk	duck	dɑ:k	dark	dɒk	dock
lʌst	lust	lɑ:st	last	lɒst	lost
bʌks	bucks	bɑ:ks	barks	bɒks	box
kʌp	cup	kɑ:p	carp	kɒp	cop

# 1. Simple Vowels

/ɒ, ɔ:, ʊ, u:/'

ʃɒd shod

ʃɔ:d shored

ʃʊd should

ʃu:d shoed

kɒd cod

kɔ:d cord

kʊd could

ku:d coed

wɒd wad

wɔ:d ward

wʊd would

wu:d wooed

lɒk lock

lʊk look

lu:k Luke

pɒl Poll

pɔ:l Paul

pʊl pull

pu:l pool

**THANKS FOR LISTENING**