

WORDBUILDER

Phonetic Alphabet Reference

The screenshot displays the WordBuilder software interface, which is used for creating and editing phonetic content. The interface is organized into several functional panels:

- PLAYER:** Located at the top, it includes a menu icon, a settings gear, and tabs for "Browser", "Mixer", and "Player". The current track is identified as "HBS WB Util P1 (1)".
- VOICE:** This panel on the left allows for importing and exporting voice data. It shows the current name as "Voice" and type as "HW Backup Singers". It includes two play buttons and buttons for "ENGLISH", "PHONETICS", and "VOTOX".
- TEXT EDITOR:** The central panel displays the text "Ai ga!t tul hOuld a!n".
- LETTERS:** A dropdown menu on the right lists various phonetic characters and their corresponding colors, such as "e - rEd", "el - blAck", "Ei - grEY", "f - File", "g - Green", "gl - piNG", "h - Hat", "i - Index", "il - grEEEn", and "j - oranGE".
- TOOLS:** This panel on the right provides editing tools including "UNDO", "REDO", "RESET POSITION", "BYPASS", "PANIC", "OPTIONS", and "PHRASES".
- WORD:** A panel below the text editor showing details for the word "I", including its English name, phonetic transcription "AI", and VOTOX transcription "aE".
- SYLLABLE:** A panel showing the syllable "I" and its speed set to "Normal".
- LETTER:** A panel for editing a specific letter, showing "a" with its VOTOX transcription "ks:" and "v:".
- TIME EDITOR:** The bottom panel is a detailed waveform editor for the phonetic sequence "Ai". It shows the timing of the "a" and "E" sounds, with volume envelopes and a time scale from 0 to 150ms.



EASTWEST SOUNDS

Mastering the Phonetic Alphabets

The Phonetic and Votox alphabets used in WordBuilder share a close relationship, but the Votox alphabet was designed exclusively for WordBuilder for the sole purpose of notating individual sounds that, when combined, form words that are sung.

Please note! WordBuilder functionality is only available for the following Play Libraries: Symphonic Choirs, Hollywood Choirs, and Hollywood Backup Singers.

The Importance of Votox

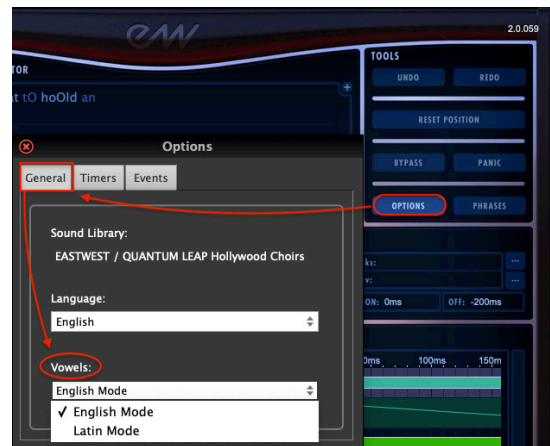
We recommend learning Votox text mode. The English text mode is a good starting place, and the Phonetic text mode is useful, but both are converted to Votox text mode where WordBuilder gives you control over each component of sound used to construct syllables and words.

Language options are available in Votox text mode. This option does not affect the sound of the words, just the symbols used to represent them.

- **Latin** uses Votox symbols that more closely reflect spellings in Romance languages.
- **English** uses Votox symbols that more closely reflect spellings in English languages.

To select a language option, click on the Options button to open the Options Dialog.

In the default tab, General Options, click in the drop-down menu under the Vowels header, to select between 'English' and 'Latin' language options.



Types of Speech Sounds

The smallest perceptible units of sounds that make up syllables and words are called phonemes. All the different types of speech sounds are included in the Pronunciation Guide below, also broken down into separate vowels, diphthongs, and consonants tables.

- **Vowels** are a speech sounds produced by vibrating vocal chords in an open vocal tract with no obstruction. When sung, it forms the voiced pitch of the syllable.
- **Consonants (pitched)** are speech sounds where the breath is (partly) obstructed. When combined with a vowel sound a syllable is formed.
- **Consonants (non-pitched)** are produced by breath alone, and do not engage the vocal tract to produce a definite pitch. This is also referred to as Unvoiced.
- **Diphthongs** are speech sounds that consist of two distinct vowels sounds that are cross-faded between each other within a single syllable.

Phonetic Pronunciation Tables

The tables in the section contain the different alphabet symbols used in both the Phonetic and Votox languages, and examples of English words to help contextualize the sound of each pronunciation. The Votox alphabet is further broken down into English and Latin alphabet language options.

The first table contains the entire set of alphabet symbols regardless of speech type, with subsequent tables containing only specific speech types, including vowels, diphthongs, and consonants (both pitched and non-pitched).

PHONETIC PRONUNCIATION TABLE			
Phonetic alphabet	Votox alphabet		English Reference
	Latin	English	
a	A	u	money, rough
a!	a	a	copper, wander
Ai	ai	aE	white, sigh
Au	Au	uO	brown, mouse
b	b	b	blue, slab
c!	C!	C!	chair, catch
-	h!	h!	nacht (night)
d	d	d	red, candor
d!	t!	t!	the, neither
e	e	e	red, steady
e!	a!	A	black, after
Ei	Ei	iE	gray, slate
f	F	F	file, enough
g	g	g	green, leg
g!	ng	ng	ping, hangar
h	H	H	hat, ahead
i	i	E	index, finger
i!	ii	EE	green, ski
j	j	j	orange, fidget
k	K	K	black, coal
l	l	l	blue, less
m	m	m	money, hammer
n	n	n	green, snug
o	o	o	orange, naughty
<i>! continued !</i>			

PHONETIC PRONUNCIATION TABLE

Phonetic alphabet	Votox alphabet		English Reference
	Latin	English	
a	A	u	money, rough
Oi	oi	oE	oil, boy
Ou	ou	oO	yellow, ocean
p	P	P	pink, upper
-	Q	Q	quick, queen
r	r	r	red, car
r!	Ar	ur	purple, lower
rr	r!	r!	rojo, perro
s	S	S	silver, lace
t	T	T	white, true
t!	T!	T!	theme, sloth
u	U	U	put, could
u!	u	O	blue, pool
v	v	v	olive, avert
w	w	w	wait, wash
x	X	X	fix, excess
x!	S!	S!	flesh, nation
y	y	y	yellow, yonder
z	z	z	zero, poison
z!	zj	zj	vision, azure
<i> continued </i>			

PHONETIC PRONUNCIATION GUIDE VOWELS & DIPHTHONGS

VOWELS are speech sounds produced by vibrating vocal chords in an open vocal tract with no obstruction. When sung, it forms the voiced pitch of the syllable.

Phonetic alphabet	Votox alphabet		English Reference
	Latin	English	
a	A	u	money, rough
a!	a	a	copper, wander
e	e	e	red, steady
e!	a!	A	black, after
i	i	E	index, finger
o	o	o	orange, naughty
u	U	U	put, could
u!	u	O	blue, pool
-	i	E	<i>only used in diphthongs</i>
DIPHTHONGS are speech sounds that consist of two distinct vowels sounds that are cross-faded between each other within a single syllable.			
Ai	ai	aE	white, sigh
Au	Au	uO	brown, mouse
Ei	Ei	iE	gray, slate
i!	ii	EE	green, ski
Oi	oi	oE	oil, boy
Ou	ou	oO	yellow, ocean
r!	Ar	ur	purple, lower

PHONETIC PRONUNCIATION GUIDE CONSONANTS

PITCHED CONSONANTS are speech sounds where the breath is (partly) obstructed. When combined with a vowel sound a syllable is formed.

Phonetic alphabet	Votox alphabet		English Reference
	Latin	English	
b	b	b	blue, slab
d	d	d	red, candor
g	g	g	green, leg
j	j	j	orange, fidget
l	l	l	blue, less
m	m	m	money, hammer
n	n	n	green, snug
r	r	r	red, car
t!	T!	T!	theme, sloth
v	v	v	olive, avert
w	w	w	wait, awash
y	y	y	yellow, yonder
z	z	z	zero, poison
NON-PITCHED CONSONANTS are produced by breath alone, and do not engage the vocal tract to produce a definite pitch. This is also referred to as Unvoiced.			
c!	C!	C!	chair, catch
-	h!	h!	nacht (night)
d!	t!	t!	the, neither
f	F	F	file, enough
g!	ng	ng	ping, hangar
h	H	H	hat, ahead
k	K	K	black, coal
p	P	P	pink, upper
-	Q	Q	quick, queen
rr	r!	r!	rojo, perro
s	S	S	silver, lace
t	T	T	white, true
x	X	X	fix, excess
x!	S!	S!	flesh, nation
z!	zj	zj	vision, azure