

Recommendations

for standardized phonetics of Estuary English

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Transcribe EE as RP, including

- /i/ for the final/prevocalic vowel in weak syllables, previously written /ɪ/ in RP, thus /'hæpi/ *happy*, /'veəriəs/ *various*;
- /u/ for the final/prevocalic vowel in weak syllables, previously written /ʊ/ in RP, thus /'θæŋkju/ *thank you*, /,grædʒu'eɪʃən/ *graduation*;

but with the following changes:

- EE /aɪ/ for RP /aɪ/, thus /praɪs/ *price*;
- EE /æʊ/ for RP /aʊ/, thus /mæʊθ/ *mouth* (cf. Cockney [mæ:f]);
- EE /o/ for final/preconsonantal /ɪ/, thus /miok/ *milk*, /'mɪdo/ *middle*;
- EE /ʔ/ for /t/ when syllable-final and preceded by a sonorant:
 - within a word, when followed by a consonant other than /r/, thus /'fʊʔbɔ:o/ *football*, /'dʒenʔli/ *gently*;
 - word-finally, optionally at the end of a stressed syllable, categorically at the end of an unstressed syllable: thus /beot/ or /beoʔ/ *belt*, /'tɪkɪʔ ,pɪs/ *ticket office*, /ɪf ɪʔ 'ɪz/ *if it is*;
- EE /tʃ, dʒ/ for RP /tj, dj/, thus /'tʃu:zdeɪ/ *Tuesday*, /rɪ'dʒu:s/ *reduce*.

In regard to the lexical incidence of phonemes,

- the participle/gerund ending *-ing* fluctuates stylistically between /ɪn/ and /ɪŋ/, thus /'rʌnɪn/ or /'rʌnɪŋ/ *running*;
- the suffix *-thing* is usually /θɪŋk/ rather than /θɪŋ/, thus /'eniθɪŋk/ *anything*;
- EE usually has /n/ for RP /nt/ in the items /'tweni/ *twenty* and /'pleni/ *plenty*, and for *want* and *went* when prevocalic, thus /'wɒnɪd/ *wanted*, /wen 'æʊʔ/ *went out* - but note that there is no American-style nt-reduction in other items, e.g. *winter* remains /'wɪntə/;
- EE prefers /ən/ in various environments where RP would prefer syllabic /ŋ /, thus /'steɪʃən/ *station*.

Posted 1998 11 18. IPA-SAM version 1998 12 18 [John Wells](#).