

A DESCRIPTION OF VOWELS

Position of the soft palate

- raised for oral vowels
- lowered for nasalized vowels

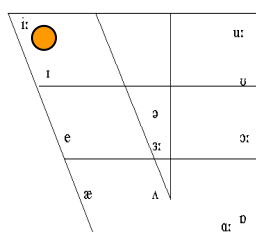
The **part of the tongue** that is raised and the degree of raising

- FRONT
- CENTRAL
- BACK

Lip position

- spread
- neutral
- close rounded
- open rounded

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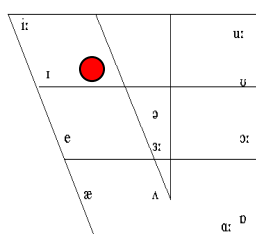
The **FRONT** of the tongue is raised to a height slightly below and behind the front close position.

- TENSE
- firm contact side rims – upper molars

The lips are

SPREAD

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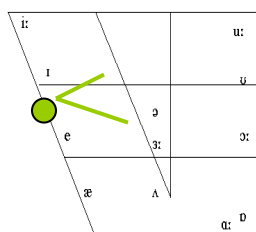
Pronounced with the part of the tongue nearer to **CENTRE** than to **FRONT** raised just above the close-mid position

- LAX
- light contact side rims – upper molars

The lips are

LOOSELY SPREAD

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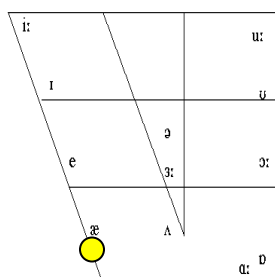
The **FRONT** of the tongue raised btw the close-mid & open-mid positions

- more tension than for / I /
- light contact side rims – upper molars

The lips are

LOOSELY SPREAD

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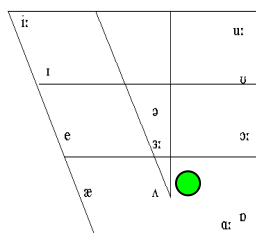
The **FRONT** of the tongue is raised to a position midway just above open

- very slight contact side rims – back upper molars

The lips are

NEUTRAL LY OPEN

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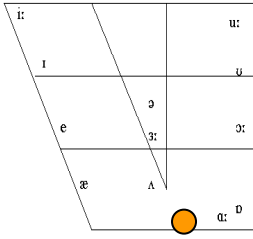
The **CENTRE** of the tongue is raised just above the fully open position

- no contact side rims- upper molars

considerable separation of the jaws

NEUTRALLY OPEN lips

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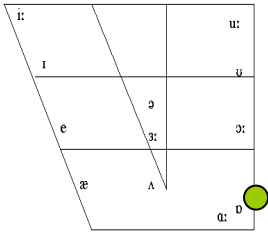
The part of the tongue btw the **CENTRE** and the **BACK** is in the fully open position

-no contact side rims- upper molars

considerable separation of the jaws

NEUTRALLY OPEN lips

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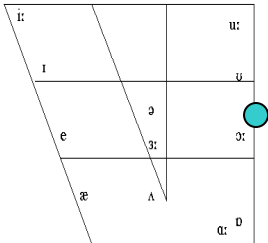
The **BACK** of the tongue is in the fully open position

-no contact side rims- upper molars

wide open jaws

SLIGHT LIP ROUNDING

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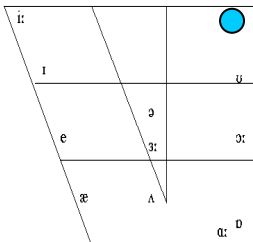


The **BACK** of the tongue is raised btw the open-mid and close-mid positions

-no contact side rims- upper molars

MEDIUM LIP ROUNDING

/u:/



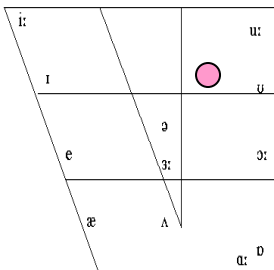
A **CLOSE BACK VOWEL**, but the tongue-raising is relaxed from the closest position and is somewhat centralized from the back

-no firm contact side rims – u.m.

Lips are

CLOSELY ROUNDED

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Pronounced with a part of the tongue nearer to the **CENTRE** than to the **BACK** raised just above the close-mid position

-**LAX**ly held (vs. tenser /u:/)

-no firm contact side rims – u.m.

tendency to be

UNROUNDED