

Names & Sounds of Consonant Symbols

In class we will refer to consonant symbols by their names. So you should become familiar with the customary name for each symbol. You should also be aware of the sound that each symbol represents. That knowledge will help you take transcription and predict consonant sounds. This lesson will help you reach these objectives.

A. Consonant Symbol Names

The common-looking consonant symbols have the following names, matching their alphabet names.

/p/	pee	/k/	kay	/z/	zee/zed	/r/	ar
/b/	bee	/g/	gee	/h/	aitch	/w/	double-u
/t/	tee	/f/	ef	/m/	em	/y/	wye
/d/	dee	/v/	vee	/n/	en		
		/s/	ess	/l/	el		

Write out the names of the following consonant symbols:

- | | | | |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1. /y/ | _____ | 4. /s/ | _____ |
| 2. /h/ | _____ | 5. /r/ | _____ |
| 3. /g/ | _____ | 6. /k/ | _____ |

The less common-looking symbols go by the following names:

/tʃ/	tee-esh (or t-esh)	/θ/	theta	/ʃ/	esh
/dʒ/	dee-yogh (or d-yogh)	/ð/	eth	/ʒ/	yogh
		/ŋ/	eng or angma		

Write out the names of the following consonant symbols:

- | | | | |
|--------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1. /w/ | _____ | 6. /p/ | _____ |
| 2. /ʒ/ | _____ | 7. /ʃ/ | _____ |
| 3. /z/ | _____ | 8. /ð/ | _____ |
| 4. /θ/ | _____ | 9. /ŋ/ | _____ |
| 5. /f/ | _____ | 10. /dʒ/ | _____ |

B. Consonant Symbol Sounds

Each consonant symbol represents a single consonant sound in English. You should be able to identify the sound of each symbol and use the symbol to write English sounds.

Circle the word(s) containing the consonant sound represented by the symbol on the left.

/dʒ/	germs	joyful	agile	agreed
/y/	useful	cuter	say	baby
/ð/	myth	those	although	either
/ŋ/	angle	ankle	snag	champagne
/ʃ/	charge	Chicago	mission	initial
/g/	gym	aging	grill	enough
/l/	elf	walk	swell	frank
/k/	knife	squeak	tack	accent
/tʃ/	each	stack	mash	itch
/b/	thumb	number	burp	supper
/z/	scissors	rose	base	passage

Write the symbols to represent the first and last consonant sounds in each word.

wide / // / fell / // / theme / // /
rush / // / noise / // / wave / // /
sore / // / chip / // / this / // /
unit / // / gawk / // / has / // /
judge / // / bang / // / gem / // /

Note: The only consonant letters in the English alphabet not named so far are the names for *c* (cee), *j* (jay), *q* (cue), and *x* (eks). That is because these letters are not used in transcription symbols.