

Phoneme	Lexical Set	Tamil	Notes   Examples
/i/ ee	Fleece, Read	[i]	plea, meet, read, dream, each
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please leave the beach before you sneeze.</li> <li>2. Ethan's teeth need cleaning each evening.</li> </ol>			
/i/ -y	Happy, Quickly	[i]	pretty, lady, chassis, jazzy, foamy
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Silly Jessie was pretty lazy and very funny.</li> <li>2. The city is dirty, smelly and extremely sexy, baby.</li> </ol>			
/ɪ/ ih	Kit, This	[i, ɪ]	hid, miss, fill, rim, sing, rich
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Which Hilton sister will sin with the richest celebrity?</li> <li>2. Phil isn't really living in Ipswich in winter, is he?</li> </ol>			
/ɛ/ e	Dress, Fellow	[ɛ]	met, bed, left, bless, edge, hem, neck, egg
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leicester sent ten red roses to Cecily.</li> <li>2. Whenever Jeff gets dressed, he forgets his red necktie.</li> </ol>			
/æ/ a	Trap, Actors	[æ]	flap, jab, cram, bag, sack,
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Naturally, the cat and the rat acted antagonistically.</li> <li>2. The man made a gaff as he calculated the ant's mass.</li> </ol>			
/æ.ɪ/ -arr-	Guarantee	[æ]	Larry, parasite, harassment, barrel, carrier
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Harriet parried Barry's frantic marriage proposals in the carriage.</li> <li>2. The paratrooper shot an arrow in the arid landscape.</li> </ol>			
/ɑ/ ah	Bath, Command	[ɑ]	path, dance, brass, daft, laugh, basket, branch
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The calf stood halfway in the path.</li> <li>2. The castle staff were members of the lower class.</li> </ol>			
/ɑ/ aa	Palm, Father	[ɑ]	garage, balm, aha, bra, taco, sergeant,

			bourgeois, mirage, piranha
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Papa listened to the Bach sonata while he ate his taco under the palm tree.</li> <li>2. The macho maharaja calmly enjoyed his massage.</li> </ol>			
/ɒ/ o	Lot, not	[ɔ]	not, rod, rock, bog, profit, honest, loft
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The pot rocked on the sloppy stovetop.</li> <li>2. Dishonest coppers profited from the squabble over the yacht's sale.</li> </ol>			
/ɔ/ aw	Thought, Cloth	[ɔ]	taught, bought, applaud, hawk, small off, Austria, cost, gone
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Paul taught his daughter to crawl when she was small.</li> <li>2. No more waffling Tom: buy the costly cloth, 'cause you're making me cross.</li> </ol>			
/u/ oo	Goose, moods	[u]	scoop, boom, boost, move, tomb, groove
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The youth with the loose tooth will choose to move to Vancouver.</li> <li>2. The rude moose hunter wore his toque as he smooched with Sue.</li> </ol>			
/ju/ yoo	Music Tune, Duke	[ju]	cue, few, cube, huge, dupe, new, tune, stew, obtuse, deuce
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The singer resumed the tune as the funeral director gave him is cue.</li> <li>2. It's your duty to review the human rights bill as a neutral and lucid student.</li> </ol>			
/ʊ/ uu	Foot, good	[ʊ, u]	put, soot, good, wool, could
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Should you put sooty candles in wooden pulpits when they could catch fire?</li> <li>2. The pussycat on the cushion near the book watched the wolf eat the pudding.</li> </ol>			
/ʌ/ u	Strut, luck	[ʌ]	cup, rub, hum, pulse, butter, done
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The young monk hummed as he hurried uphill.</li> <li>2. Her mother fussed about adding a touch of butter to the cup of flour.</li> </ol>			
/ʌ.ɪ/ -urr	Hurry	[ʌ]	curry, current, currency, furrow, hurry, hurricane, occurrence

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Murray worried about the hurricane destroying the turret.</li> <li>2. Hurry to Surrey to buy some nourishing currants.</li> </ol>			
Final /ə/ <i>uh</i> (unstressed)	Comma <u>Letter</u>	[ɜ̃] [ə]	idea, sofa, saliva, arena actor, better, flavour
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The customer<u>er</u> got a better<u>er</u> offer<u>er</u> on the sofa in order<u>er</u> to reach the sales quota.</li> <li>2. The saga tells us the colour<u>ur</u> of the armour<u>ur</u> worn by the martyr<u>ur</u> in the arena.</li> </ol>			
/ɜ/ <i>ur</i>	Nurse	[ə]	hurt, curd, hurl, burst, irk, birch, girl, fir, myrtle, assert
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The courteous colonel preferred to fish with curds rather than worms.</li> <li>2. I was urged to be a liquor connoisseur, said the earnest girl at her worst.</li> </ol>			

Diphthong	Lexical Set	Tamil	Notes   Examples
/eɪ/ ay	Face	[e:]	change, taper, base, crêpe, wait, day, rein, they, reign
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The baby's name is April, and she weighs eight pounds.</li> <li>2. The raven-haired lady deigns to bathe in the wave pool.</li> </ol>			
/aɪ/ igh	Price	[ɛi]	night, like, rife, nice, type missile, fertile, agile, mobile
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I like it when the airplane for the night flight gets de-iced.</li> <li>2. The vampire was attacked with a knife, a spike and an ice pick.</li> </ol>			
/ɔɪ/ oy	Choice	[ɔi]	toy, choice, moist, coin, groin, hoist, joist
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The boy found joy in employing his voice to make a loud noise.</li> <li>2. The oil from the buoy spoiled the oysters and made them poisonous.</li> </ol>			
/aʊ/ ow	Mouth	[ɐu]	out, pouch, south, house, loud, gouge, thou, round, oust, flour
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The count used a towel to dry his mouth.</li> <li>2. The loud noun featured a foul vowel that was hard to pronounce.</li> </ol>			
/oʊ/ oh	Goat	[o]	soap, boat, oak, coal, rope, joke, both, code, rogue, home, tone, no, toe
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I loathe that the noble will ride the colt along the road.</li> <li>2. My brooch was sewn on the robe with the hole.</li> </ol>			
/ɪə/ eer	Near	[iɛ]	beer, deer, career, here, mere, sincere, interfere, cashier, weir, fear, appear
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I fear her tears are sincere: she's weary of her career here.</li> <li>2. Don't interfere with the yearling, dear; it's acting queer.</li> </ol>			
/ɛə/ air	Square	[ɛ:]	care, fair, pear, their, scarce
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mary didn't care for what the fairy had to share.</li> </ol>			

2. My heir swears with flair because our funds are so scarce.			
/ɑɹ/ ar	Start	[ɑ]	part, large, snarl, arch, marvelous, hearth
1. Please carve the turkey for the party with the sharp knife, Charles. 2. The hearty sergeant was far from sharp.			
/ɔɹ/ or	North/Force	[ɔ]	for, war, resort, horse, chord, short, orchid, swarm
1. I adore Laura, who ignores my snoring. 2. The performance of the porn star cost a fortune.			
/ʊɹ/ oor	Cure	[uɹ]	boor, poor, tour, allure, assure, lure, contour
1. The bourgeois fool assured us of the mural's authenticity. 2. The furious gourmet showed his boorishness at the lurid feast.			

Consonant	Example	Tamil	Notes
Initial p, t, k	put, top, cut	p <sup>̄</sup> , t <sup>̄</sup> , k <sup>̄</sup>	Initial /p, t, k/ are usually unaspirated in English, though Tamil does have aspirated consonants!
Initial b, d, g	bet, debt, get	ḅ, ḍ, g̣	Initial /b, d, g/ are fully voice (short VOT). Though Tamil does not have voiceless initial stops, they do have them in loan words.
ð	then, they	dð	Tamil has a voiced dental fricative, but it is often preceded by an epenthetic dental stop. The combination sounds somewhat like /d/
θ	thin, with	t̪	/θ/ is substituted with a voiceless dental stop.
Final l	fill, call	l, ɭ	Though Tamil has a retroflex /l/, it is unlikely to be used in English words. However, final /l/ is likely to be light. If the speaker attempts to darken it, they may try to do so by retroflexing it.
ɻ	Tamiɻ	ɻ	The word “Tamil” is best transcribed as [təmiɻ], with a retroflected approximant.
tʃ	church	tɕ	Many sources say that Tamil’s “ch” consonant is articulated in the alveolo-palatal place, with more of the blade of the tongue than the front edge of the tongue.
initial /h/	here	ç	Tendency to make strong initial /h/ with a voiceless palatal fricative.
Final nasals /m, n, ŋ/	him, pin, sing	Ṽ	Final nasals are often omitted with the nasal quality applied to the vowel that precedes it in the word.

/r/ clusters	pry, try, cry bra, dry, grey	Cr, Cr	Consonant clusters with /r/ have either a tapped [ɾ] or a trilled [r].
/st/ cluster	stop	sc-	The /t/ in an initial /st-/ cluster is frequently pronounced with a palatal stop.