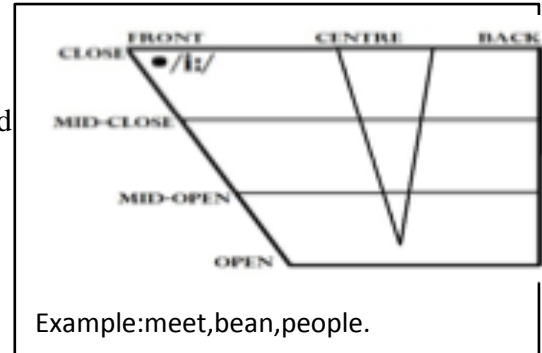


Although precise description of vowels is difficult, the vowel diagram is the best scheme used for classifying vowels, in which we have three horizontal labels for the position of the tongue (front, central and back) in the mouth opposing the soft palate. On the other hand, we have four vertical lines for the shape of the tongue or the degree of opening of the mouth (close, close-mid, open-mid, open). We can place all the English vowel sounds in the vowel chart.

ARTICULATIONS OF THE FRONT VOWELS

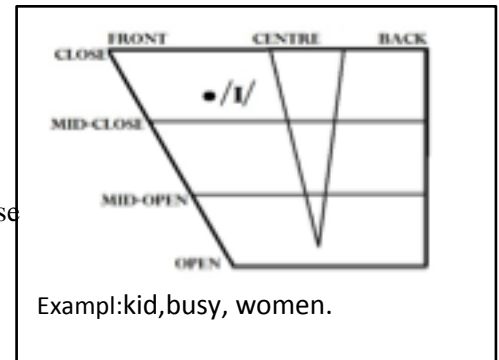
1.1. Description of the articulation of /i:/

- The soft palate is raised and the nasal resonators shut off.
- The front of the tongue is raised slightly below and behind the front close position. There is a firm contact between the side rims of the tongue and the upper side teeth.
- The lips are spread.



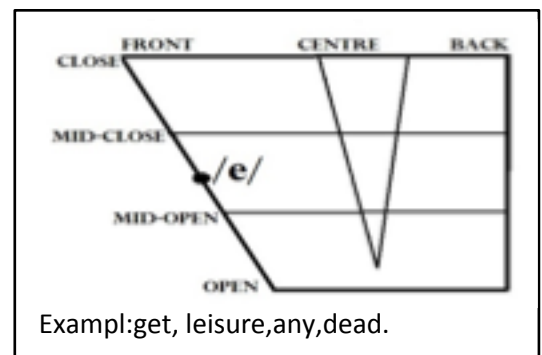
1.2. Description of the articulation of /ɪ/

- The soft palate is raised and the nasal cavity shut off.
- This short vowel is articulated with a part of the tongue nearer to centre than to front, the tongue is raised above the mid-close position. The side rims contact with the upper molars slightly.
- The lips are loosely spread.



1.3. Description of the articulation of /e/

- The soft palate is raised and the nasal cavity shut off.
- The front of the tongue is raised between the mid-close and mid-open positions. The side rims make a light contact with the upper molars.
- The lips are loosely spread and wider apart.



1.4. Description of the articulation of /æ/

- The soft palate is raised and the nasal cavity shut off.
- The front of the tongue is raised below the mid-open position. The rims make a very light contact with the back upper molars.
- The lips are neutrally open.

