Front vowels

- five standard front vowels
- two are tense, others lax
- classified as high, mid and low
- all made similarly

Commonalities

- tongue body is shifted forward
- mandible. tongue adjustments to change size of oral cavity
- tip of tongue remains at the level of the lower teeth

/i/

key word: eat
referred to as long e

Description

- height: high
- advancement: front
- lip rounding: retracted
- tense/lax: tense

highest and most fronted of all vowels
anchors the vowel chart as "point" or "cardinal vowel"

Orthography

- 23 different spellings
- most center around the letter “e” - me, debris, people
- others:
– i- prestige
– ei - receipt
– eo - people
– ey - ky
– ie - relieve

6 Characteristics

- occurs early in the speech of kids
- 90% master by 3 years
- in initial, middle and final positions
- 4th in frequency
- rarely misarticulated
- minimal difficulty with non-native speakers

7 Identify the words that contain the /i/
phoneme:

- paper train cleveland seaside please picture
- trip trail tribal machine labor trees settle
- screen toledo lip nice foreign levi jeans

8 /I/

- key words: ship, it, if, hit
- looks like small capital I
- height: high
- advancement: front
- lip rounding: retracted
- tense/lax: lax:

9 Characteristics

- lower tongue slightly from highest point
reduce muscle tension
appears in initial, middle and final
90% mastery by 3 years
2nd most frequent vowel
difficult sound for non-native speakers
33 different spellings

10 Orthography
most common spelling - I or y
-e - pretty
-ei- forfeit
-o- women
-ui- built
u - busy

11 Peculiarities
unstressed syllable that end in -y
letter string “ing”
preceding the /r/ in specific circumstances

12 Identify the words that contain /I/
peace friend enthrall bitter mythical silver
woman tryst click ingest build fear
thread pink bowling tried pride clear
sporty synchronize

13 /e/ /ei/
key words: ate, paper, tray
height: high-mid
advancement: front
lip rounding: retracted
tense/lax: tense

14 Production
- lips are apart, some tension in corners
- tongue slightly higher than middle of mouth to mid-plane and shifted forward
- tip of tongue at lower front teeth
- tongue makes contact with posterior gum ridge and molars laterally

15 Uniquenesses
- produced as monothong and diphthong
- monothong /e/ as apron, cake, ape,
- diphthong /et/ as in away, toupee - stressed syllables

16 Orthography
- 36 different spellings
- most common is the letter a
- -ea- steak
- -ay - may
- -au = guage
- -et - ballet
- -ee - matinee

17 Characteristics
- 90% mastery by 3 to 5
- 10th in vowel frequency
- 25th in frequency of all phonemes
little problem with this common sound

18  / ε /

- key words: bed, head, get
- greek epsilon symbol
- height: low-mid
- advancement: front
- lip rounding: retracted
- tense/lax: lax

19  Orthography

- 19 different spelling
- most common: letter e as in men
- others: a - many
  - ai - said
  - ea - head
  - ei - heifer
  - ie - friend
  - ue - guess

20  Characteristics

- 90% mastery by 3 years
- does not occur in the final position: egg, engine, bed, leg
- note: influenced by dialect and is a problem for non native speaker
- 6th in frequency of vowels: 16th for all phonemes

21  / /

- key word: at
- no keyboard letter that corresponds
symbol is a diagraph - two letters written as one unitary symbol
height: low
advancement: front
lip rounding: retracted
tense/lax: lax

22 Orthography
13 different spellings
most common letter a
others:
- au - laugh
- ai - plaid
- ua - guarantee
- i/ - meringue

23 Characteristics
90% mastery by 3 to 5 years
does not occur in the final position: apple, cat
3rd in frequency of vowels; 8th in all phonemes
vowel most frequently in error in kids with phonological problems
not a common sound in world language so nonnative speakers may have problems

24 Peculiarities
highly variable in English
greatly affected by dialect
a variant in eastern seaboard dialects is /a/ as half/ car etc