Linguistics 520 Linguistic Phonetics

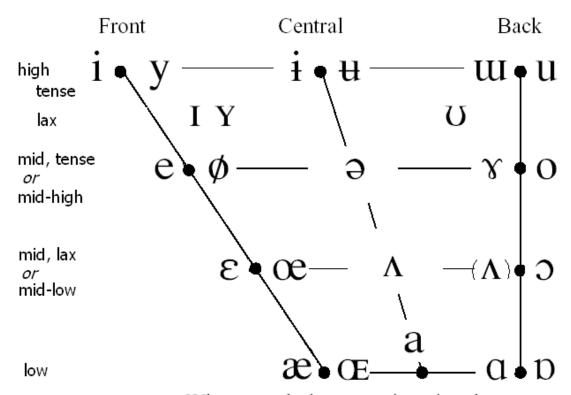
Vowel chart

This vowel chart is slightly modified from the official IPA chart as follows:

• It acknowledges that [A] is often used to represent a **mid central vowel**, especially for the US English STRUT vowel.

- It uses [æ] to represent a fully low front vowel.
- It uses [a] to represent a low central vowel.
 - Some sources even use [a] for a low back vowel (for font convenience).
 - In handouts for this course, the symbol [a] will <u>never</u> be used to represent a *front* vowel this differs from official IPA usage.
- The IPA uses 'close' and 'open' in place of 'high' and 'low'. The IPA labels for the two categories of mid vowels are therefore 'mid-close' and 'mid-open'.

VOWELS - slightly modified from the official IPA chart



Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.