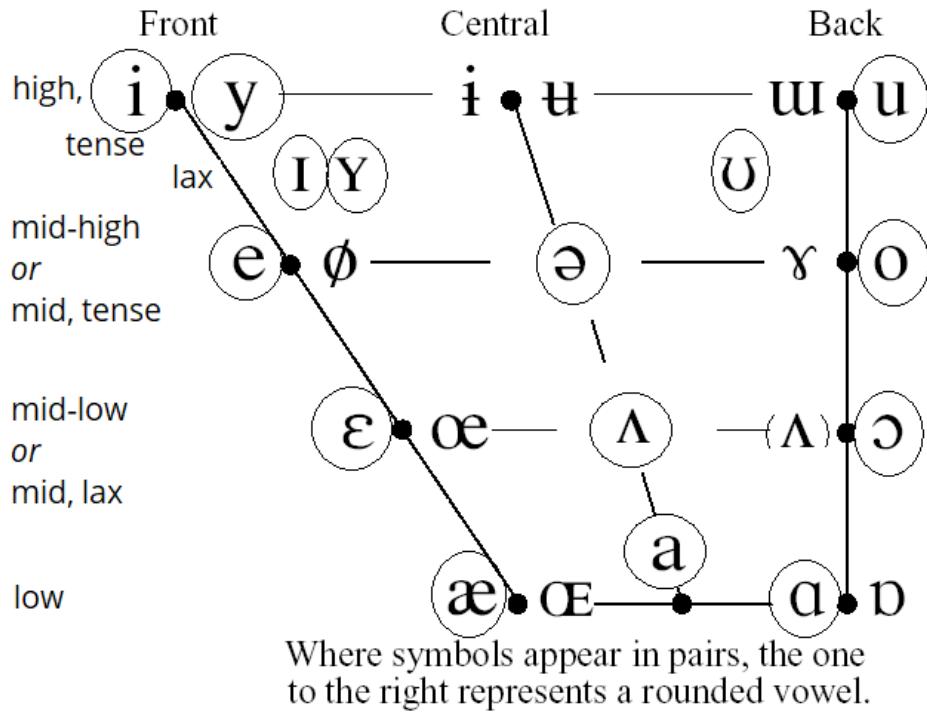


Phonetics review: Vowel chart

- For the phonetics quiz, be able to describe the circled vowels in terms of **height**, **backness**, **rounding**, and (where needed) **tense/lax**.

VOWELS -- modified IPA



Note some points of difference between this chart and the official IPA vowel chart:

- The **positions of [æ] and [a]** on this chart better reflect how these symbols are used by phonologists (and even many phoneticians). In particular, in handouts for this course, the symbol [a] will **never** be used to represent a *front* vowel.
 - For more discussion and critique of the history of the symbol [a] and its place on the IPA chart, see this discussion by Sidney Wood:
[\[https://swphonetics.com/2017/12/01/150thanniversarybellvowelmodel04/\]](https://swphonetics.com/2017/12/01/150thanniversarybellvowelmodel04/)
- **Vowel height** categories:
 - The official IPA chart uses the terms “close” and “open” instead of **high** and **low** respectively. In this course, we will use the terms high and low, because they are more commonly encountered in the theoretical phonology literature.
 - Some phonologists treat [e, o] and [ɛ, ɔ] as having the *same* height, namely, **mid**, and differing in being **tense** vs. **lax** respectively (like the high vowels). Other phonologists treat **mid-high** and **mid-low** as two *different* levels of height, as shown on the IPA chart. Arguably, each of these classifications is used in the phonological systems of different languages. When you are working with mid vowels, be open to evidence from the data as to how to classify them.