**Phonetics and Phonology : Lesson 4**

**English long vowels :**

English has five long vowels , they tend to be longer than the short vowels in similar contexts , as in :

Ship / i / -- sheep / i: /

Pot / o / -- sport / o: /

The length of all English vowel sounds varies very much according to their **context** ( the type of the sounds that follow them ) and the presence or absence of **stress** .

The long vowels differ from short vowels in length and quality . Differences in quality occur because of ( differences in tongue shape and position , and lip position ) . The length mark is made of two dots ( : ) . Long vowels include :

/ i: / This is a close – front vowel .The lips are slightly spread .

Example words : ( beat , mean , peace , heat )

/ 3: / This is a mid- central vowel which is used in many English accents as a hesitation sound . The lip position is neutral .

Example words : ( bird , fern , purse )

/ a: / This is an open vowel . The lip position is neutral .

Example words : ( card , half , pass , March )

/ o: / This vowel is almost fully back and has quite string lip- rounding .

Example words : ( board , torn , horse )

/ u: / This is a close – back vowel , and the lips are only moderately rounded .

Example words : ( food , soon , loose , moon , spoon )