

Vowels

Distinguished by four characteristics:

1. Tongue / Jaw height

High

Mid

Low

2. Tongue position

Front

Center

Back

3. Lip rounding

Spread

Neutral

Rounded



4. Lax

vs.

Tense

/ɪ, ε, æ, ʌ, ʊ/

/i, y, e, y, o, w, u, w, ɑ, ɔ/

a. muscles more relaxed

a. muscles more tense

b. less tendency to glide

b. more tendency to glide

c. only in closed syllables

c. in both open / closed syllables