

letter	ɪ	ɪ	ʊ	e	ʊ	ɹ	ɹ	ʌ
Set	KIT	FLEECE	DRESS	FACE	TRAP	PRICE	PALM	THOUGHT
no.	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
name	If	Eat	Ed	Eight	Ash	Ice	Ah	Awl

IPA

letter	ʌ	ɑ	ɹ	ɹ	ʊ	ʊ	ʌ
Set	LOT	CHOICE	STRUT	MOUTH	GOAT	FOOT	GOOSE
no.	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
name	On	Oy	Ado	Out	Oak	Wool	Ooze

IPA

letter	ɹ	ʌ	ɹ	ɹ	ɹ	ɹ	ɹ
set	NURSE	SQUARE	NEAR	CURE	START	FORCE	HAPPY

table 1: Lexical Set for General American (first draft)

No agreed upon way has been reached on how to deal with mergers. For this set, I propose the following.

Ah-Awl-On merger. Many Americans cannot distinguish between these 3 vowel sounds, or can only distinguish between two of them. Indeed, my Longman American dictionary does not even try to distinguish between Ah and On, but uses On for all words. For informal communication, Americans can choose whatever vowel they hear when they speak. I think for most

Americans, that vowel is On. Such writing would probably be understood by context both in America and in other countries. For formal writing, such as converting a novel to Quikscript for others to read, it might be best to distinguish between all 3 letters by looking up the spelling in a dictionary. Ideally, we could come up with an agreed upon convention for such mergers. Read himself seems to have advocated some standardization. (See the the email between Moira and myself.)

Using a different standard for informal and formal communication allows the spelling to have flexibility. We should not discourage users from using their own mergers, nor should we consider any one type of Quikscript writing superior to another. On the other hand, using conventions in formal works would make such works easier to read for users in all parts of the words and would encourage the community to transliterate texts to Quikscript.

NEAR-SQARE merger. Some Americans, such as myself, do not distinguish between the pronunciation of "sqare" and "near," nor between "beer" and "bear." I propose following the same procedure as in the Ah-Awl-On merger.

Et-Eat merger. Some Americans do not distinguish between words such as "pen" and "pin." I propose following the same procedure as in the Ah-Awl-On merger.

NURSE, SQUARE, and other vowels before Roar. For the vowels before Roar, I have used what sounds natural to my ear, consulting my Longman dictionary. Indeed, I have seen these combinations expressed different ways, and they don't seem to cause confusion. I do think we should agree upon a standard way to making writing and understanding better. Most users don't think of don't think of the vowel before the "r" as separate, but think of both letters as a combination, so having a convention for these common sets helps save time and facilitates understanding. I think it would be better to have a different combination for NURSE, since Ado Roar doesn't really adequately express the combination and sometimes leads to confusion when reading, but this matter can wait.

HAPPY There is debate on wheather to use Eat or If as the finally vowel in such words as "happy." Read advoated using "If," which seems to be somewhat of the convention, but I prefer "Eat," the vowel most speakers use. However, I think we should decide on one or another.