

NORWEGIAN VOWELS

Three-way contrast on front-back dimension

(Example from SoWL)

Languages typically make more contrasts on the open-close than the front-back dimension. Thus it is quite unusual to find a three-way contrast such as the one shown here between back, central and front rounded vowels.

Front <u>Unrounded</u>	Front <u>Rounded</u>	Central <u>Rounded</u>	Back <u>Rounded</u>
b i: ▶ “next to”	b y: ▶ “city”	b ʉ: ▶ “shack”	b u: ▶ “live”

(English /**u**/ is of course often quite central, i.e advanced from a cardinal [**u**] position, but in English there is no contrast with a front rounded vowel to be maintained.)