

PORTUGUESE VOWELS

(European Portuguese from Illustrations of the IPA)

Portuguese is remarkable for the number of nasalized vowels and diphthongs (including contrasting nasal and oral diphthongs).

The examples are arranged as far as possible in oral/nasal pairs that match as closely as possible (vowels not available in stressed position have been omitted).

1. Monophthongs

<u>oral</u>	v i ▶ “saw” (1 sg.)	v e ▶ “see” (3 sg.)	s ε ▶ “cathedral”	v a ▶ “go” (3 sg.)	s ɔ ▶ “alone”	s o ▶ “I am”	m u d u ▶ “mute” (m.)
<u>nasal</u>	v ĩ ▶ “came” (1 sg.)	ẽ t r u ▶ “enter” (1 sg.)		ẽ t r u ▶ “den”		s õ ▶ “sound” (n.)	m ã d u ▶ “world”

2. Diphthongs

<u>oral</u>	ɛnɛif ▶ “rings” (n.)	sai ▶ “go out” (3 sg.)	sɛi ▶ “know” (1 sg.)	mɔi ▶ “grind” (3 sg.)	moitɛ ▶ “thicket”	ɛnuif ▶ “agree” (2 sg.)	viu ▶ “saw” (3 sg.)	meu ▶ “mine” (poss. m.)	vɛu ▶ “veil”	mau ▶ “bad” (m. sg.)
<u>nasal</u>		sẽi ▶ “hundred”		enõif ▶ “dwarves” (m.)	mũitɛ ▶ “much, many” (f.)				mẽu ▶ “hand” (n.)	