**7 basic long vowels**

There are altogether nine main central vowel sounds in Cantonese, 7 of them are long vowels and 2 are short vowels. Let’s look at the 7 basic long vowels. The first five vowels, in the following picture, are quite straight-forward. But you may wonder why “aa” is written as such, but not just a single “a”. It is because the writing “a” is reserved for the short vowel “a”. Click on the vowels to hear their pronunciations.



[Add audio files: aa, e, I, o, u onto the picture]

aa: 

e: 

i: 

o: 

u: 

The below two vowels, “oe” and “yu”, are less common in other languages and may require more practice. Click on the vowels to hear whether you agree that they sound like -er in “her” and -ew in “chew” respectively.



[Add audio files: oe, yu onto the picture]

oe: 

yu: 