

## Girls Names and Their Meanings IPA Lesson Two

### 2014 Top 10 Girls' Names

1	Sophia	/səʊ.'fi:.ə/	wisdom
2	Emily	/'e.mə.li/	industrious
3	Lily	/li.'li/	lily flower
4	Olivia	/'ɒ.li.vi.ə/	olive tree
5	Amelia	/ə.'mi:.li.jə/	work
6	Isla	/'aɪ.lə/	Scottish river
7	Isabella	/'ɪz.ə.bel.ə/	devoted to God
8	Ava	/'aɪ.və/	water (Persian)
9	Sophie	/səʊ.'fi/	wisdom
10	Chloe	/'kləʊ.i/	green shoots

### 1994 Top Ten Girls' Names

1	Emma	/'e.mə/	universal
2	Emily	/'e.mə.li/	industrious
3	Sophie	/səʊ.'fi/	wisdom
4	Amy	/'eɪ.mi/	beloved
5	Jessica	/'dʒes.sɪ.kə/	rich
6	Hannah	/'hæn.nə/	grave
7	Charlotte	/'ʃɑ:.lɒt/	feminine of Charles 'strong'
8	Jade	/dʒeɪd/	green stone
9	Rebecca	/'ri:.'bek.ə/	to tie up
10	Lauren	/'lə.rən/	laurel tree

## 1954 Top Ten Girls' Names

1	Jane	/dʒeɪn/	gift from God
2	Elizabeth	/iːˈlɪz.ə.beθ/	my God is abundance
3	Ann	/æn/	favoured
4	Carol	/'kæ.rəl/	song
5	Patricia	/pə.'trɪ.fə	noble
6	Janet	/'dʒæ.nɪt/	gift from God
7	Margaret	/'mɑː.grət/	pearl
8	Christine	/krɪ.'stiːn/	word or voice
9	Linda	/'lɪn.də/	soft; tender
10	Susan	/'suː.sən/	graceful lily

## IPA Lesson Two

**Some Basics for Reading IPA** - When you first start learning IPA it can seem overwhelming because of all the new and unfamiliar characters (see the middle table above). This is why I recommend learning IPA piece-by-piece very slowly. Don't worry if you look at the phonemic transcription of a word (how a word is spelt in IPA) and it confuses you -- this is normal at the beginning!

Today I am going to teach you some useful basics about IPA:

1. **slashes** - words written in IPA have slashes either side of them. E.g.

**/ ' mɑː . grət /**

Dictionaries include these slashes either side of the word to show it's 'broad transcription'

(the standard way the word is pronounced in a given dialect such as R.P. or G.A.)

However, sometimes you may also see square brackets [ ' mɑː . grət ] in other places where

you see a word is written in IPA. When you see words written in square brackets it is called 'narrow transcription' and is used to represent a specific person's pronunciation of a word:

**/kʌt/ = cut in the British standard dialect R.P.**

**[kət] = cut is how a specific person pronounces the same word.**

2. **syllable number** - the dots or full stops you see at the bottom of a word spelt in IPA show the breaks between syllables. This is very useful for you know what letters and sounds join each other in a word. I recommend you buy or use an online dictionary that shows you where the syllables break by using dots (some do not show this useful information.)

Linda      /'lɪn.də/

There is one dot in the middle of the transcription. This shows that there are two syllables.

'Lin' /lɪn/ is the first syllable and 'də' /də/ is the second syllable.

3. **word stress** - word stress in IPA is shown with a mark that looks like an apostrophe. Short words of only one syllable do not have this apostrophe mark because there is only one sound and therefore only one stress e.g. Ann /æn/. Words longer than one syllable will have an apostrophe next to the beginning of one of the syllables. This apostrophe shows that the syllable is stressed. Most of the time the apostrophe will be next to the first syllable in a word due to the general rhythm of the English language. For example, the name Carol /'kæ.rəl/ has the stress in the first syllable:

/'kæ.rəl/

The main stress can also be in any of the other syllables of a word, though it is more rare:

/səʊ.'fi/

The name Sophie (as above) has the main stress on the second syllable. The main stress of a word should have the strongest sound / most emphasis of all the syllables.

### **IPA Exercises for Self Study**

I recommend printing this document or writing in an exercise book to do the following exercises (approx 5 minutes of study).

1. Go through the list of names on pages 1 and 2 and count the syllables in each of the names. Remember to use the dots / full stops to guide you. For example, 'Ann' has one syllable and 'Carol' has two syllables.
2. Go through the list of names and look for names that don't have the main word stress on the first syllable. *Hint: there are only 4 of them.*
3. Watch the video again and pronounce each of the names after me while you are reading the column that shows the phonemic transcription of each word. Don't worry if you can't understand much in the column yet -- the important thing is to repeat after me.

4. Words stress experiment: what happens when you change the main stress in a word? Read the list of names again but this time see if you can change the word stress so that the name sounds different. Note: you can't do this with names like 'Ann' which have only one stress. For example, how does 'Carol' sound when the stress is swapped to the second syllable → /kə.'rɒl/ (change the position of the schwa if required).

FINALLY ---> Come and leave a comment on the blog if you did all of this homework!  
And don't forget to pat yourself on the back for finishing!!!

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### **DID YOU MISS LESSON ONE?**

**IPA Lesson One = The Schwa.** [CLICK HERE](http://jadejoddle.com/top-30-british-surnames-and-their-meanings/) to view the lesson.  
<http://jadejoddle.com/top-30-british-surnames-and-their-meanings/>

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Want to Learn a British Accent? Jade Joddle recommends **Learn a British Accent Fast**

<http://jadejoddle.com/british-accent-fast/>