



VOWEL MODIFICATION CHEAT SHEET

When the pitch gets higher, it's important to be able to modify vowels so the pitch is much easier to sing. This cheat sheet will give you a quick at-a-glance idea of some options for helping you with some specific vowel modifications. Have a struggle that's not on this list? Bring it to a Master Class and I'll help you fix it!

EASY VOWELS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I, like "eye" • A, like "hay" • Ah, like "father" • a, like "cat"
LESS TRICKY VOWELS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eh, like "egg" or "Edward" • Uh, like "ugly"
TRICKY VOWELS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E, like "easy" • O, like "go" • Ow, like "ouch" • Ooh, like "ooze" • Ih, like "is"

The key is to take the tricky vowels and modify them to be more like the easy vowels. "Easy", and "is" are tricky because those vowels require a lot less space between your jaws to form the vowel sounds, and high notes require a lot of space. "Go", "ouch", and "ooze" are tricky because your lips round at the end of the vowel sound. Rounding of the lips causes the mouth to have a lot less space. Anything you can do to a tricky vowel to create more space will allow it to feel more like an easy vowel.

"Easy" is best modified by making it more of an "hay" – like, "Ay-Zay", or

"is" is best modified by making it more of an "Edward" – like, "Ehz"

"go" is best modified by making it more of a "father" – like, "gahh", with no lip rounding

"ouch" is best modified by making it more of a "cat" – like, "atch"

"ooze" is best modified by making it more of an "ugly" – like "uhhzz"

High notes that start with vowels are easier when an "h" is inserted in a sneaky way before the vowel. Vowels that are followed by an "L" need to be as easy as possible and the "L" needs to be very lightly formed. Vowels followed by or preceded by consonants like "B", "P", "M", "Q", and "W" are tricky because the consonant requires a closing of the mouth. In this case, sometimes the consonant also needs to be modified a bit. A "B" can become a "V", a "P" can become an "F", an "M" can become an "N", a "Q" can sometimes become just a "K", and a "W" sometimes works as a light "V". In these cases where the consonant also needs to be modified, it's best to think of them like a ventriloquist – with the focus being on keeping a wide smile and very lightly and quickly touching the modified consonants.