

The Phonetic Alphabet 1. The anomaly between writing and pronunciation was the main drive behind the development of the phonetic alphabet. THE NEED FOR PHONETIC WRITING SYSTEM It is quite clear that ordinary writing systems (i.e., alphabet or orthography) cannot illustrate pronunciation differences. To overcome this, linguists use the phonetic alphabet, designed to represent all the possible sounds of the world's languages in a standard way. The most commonly-used alphabet is known as the Phonetic Alphabet designed by the International Phonetic Association (IPA) in the late 19th century. Or when there are multiple pronunciations for a word?