

PHONETICS

VOVWEL SOUNDS

/i:/

Most common spellings:

-ee as in tree cheese canteen see seed seen fee feed need

-ea as in leaf reason sea beat cease leave

-e as in complete be these

-ie as in piece field siege

/I/

Most common spellings:

-i as in sit fifth with rich

-y as in city rhythm symbol

-e as in pretty needed except houses

-ie mainly in plurals of words ending in -y. ladies cities

-a as in village private

Compare:

fill, feel ; seen, sin ; bead, bid ; list, least ; reach, rich ; ship, sheep ; wick, week ; feet, fit
league, lick ; seat, sit

/i:/

/I/

/e/

Most common spellings:

-e as in set bed went well sell else elm held desk

-ea as in dead head breath health

-a as in many Thames /temz/

Other words: says said ^{/beri/} bury Leicester ^{/frend/} friend
^{/ses/} /sed/ ^{/lestə/}

Compare:

knit, net, neat ; wretch, reach, rich ; reed, rid, red ; feel, fill, fell

/i:/

/ɪ/

/e/

/æ /

Most common spellings:

-a as in sat hand lamp rash marry pat pack sad tan land

-ai as in plait plaid

Compare:

lend ; miss, mess, mass ; tin, ten, tan ; big, beg, bag ; merry ; pet

/ɪ/

/e/

/æ /

/ʌ/

Most common spellings:

-**u** as in *sun cut dull result pulse bulb*

-**o** as in *son come among done month colour monkey mother*
nothing Monday onion London oven

-**ou** as in *country southern couple enough young*

-**oo** as in *blood flood*

-**oe** as in *does*

/a:/

Most common spellings:

-**a** as in *pass after bath tomato father branch Charles*

-**ar** as in *part car march bar far farm large hard part lark arch card*

-**er** as in *clerk Derby sergeant*

-**ea** as in *heart hearth*

-**al** as in *calm palm half calf*

-**au** as in *aunt laugh*

-ar, -er, and -al the -r and the -l are silent : *car /ka:/ clerk /kla:k/ calm /ka:m/*

Compare:

cart, cat, cut ; much, march, match ; barn, bun, ban

/æ/

/ɑ:/

/ʌ/

/ɒ/

Most common spellings:

-o as in dock dog holiday sorry gone doll involve revolver solve

-a as in was what swan want watch quality

-ou/ow as in cough Gloucester knowledge cauliflower

yacht /jɒt/

Compare:

lodge, large ; cart, cot, cut ; cough, calf ; impassible, impossible ; fond, fund ; wander, wonder

/ɒ/

/a:/

/ʌ/

/ɔ:/

Most common spellings:

-or as in cord horse sword born

-aw as in saw lawn jaw yawn dawn

-ou, au as in bought ought daughter fault cause

-ore, -oor, -oar, -our as in before more door floor oar board court four

war /wɔ:/ broad /brɔ: d/ abroad /ə'brɔ: d/

all bald ball halt false

Compare:

cord, cod, code ; don, dawn ; stork, stock ; bone, born ; ball, bull ; put, port ; could, cord

/ɒ/

/ɔ:/

/ʊ/

/ə/

/ʊ/

Most common spellings:

-**u** as in put full sugar cushion butcher pull

-**o** as in wolf woman bosom

-**oo** as in good book wood wool

-**ou** as in could should would courier

wolf /wʊlf/

Compare:

fool, full ; could, cord ; wood, ward

/ʊ/

/ɔ:/

/u:/

/u:/

Most common spellings:

-**oo** as in food soon moon spoon loop cool hoop boot school pool

-**o** as in do who move lose

-**ou** as in group soup wound through

-**u** as in rude June Susan rule

-**ew, ue, -ui, -oe** as in chew blue juice shoe

two /tu:/ toe /təu/ to /tu:/ /tə/

Compare:

foot look food good pull pool

/ʊ/

/u:/

/ɜ:/

Most common spellings:

-ir, -yr as in *bird first girl myrtle*

-er, -err, -ear (the -r is silent) as in *her/hɜ:/ serve err earth heard earl*

-ur, -urr as in *turn church nurse, fur burn urge curl*

w+ -or as in *word world work worse*

-our as in *journey courtesy scourge*

colonel /kɜ:nl/

Compare:

curt, cut, court ; fern, fun ; tough, turf

/ɜ:/

/ʌ/

/ɔ:/

/ə/

Most common spellings:

about affect accept

waiter mother father over doctor vulgar colour

picture measure

China second fellow reason stomach among temporary

Diphthongs

/e i/

Most common spellings:

-a as in *ape late make made lady waste bass game face safe ache*

-ai /ay as in *day may waist rail aim rain*

-ei / ey as in *eight veil weigh they*

-ea as in *great steak break*

Note: gauge /geɪdʒ/ / gaol /dʒeɪl/ jail

Compare:

bet, bate ; fail, fell ; chase, chess ; west, waist ; sail, sell

/ei/

/e/

/a i/

Most common spellings:

-i / y as in *time write bite climb cry dry by try fly mine hide fight*

-igh / -eigh as in *high light fight might height*

-ie / -ye as in *die dye lie pie tried*

-ei / ai as in *either (Br. Eng.) / aɪə / neither aisle /aɪl/*

Note: buy eye

/ɔɪ/

Most common spellings:

-oi / -oy as in *boy toy noise voice boil point avoid coin*

/əʊ/

Most common spellings:

-o as in sold old home both folk pose post hole roll pole

-oa as in oak road toast soap

-oe as in toe foe

-ou / ow as in soul show though shoulder know blow

Compare:

fur, foe ; own, earn ; girl, goal ; earth, oath; curt, coat ; foam, firm

/əʊ/

/ɜː/

so, saw ; pose, pause ; bold, bald ; load, lord ; bought, boat ; choke, chalk

/əʊ/

/ɔː/

foe, fur, four ; bone, born, burn ; walk, work, woke ; curl, coal, call ; coat, caught, curt

/əʊ/

/ɜː/

/ɔː/

/aʊ/

Most common spellings:

-ou / ow as in house sound out cow town allow how loud shout about

mouse mouth owl

/ɪə /

Most common spellings:

-eer , ear, ere as in *deer cheer tear fear hear beard*

-eir, ier, ir as in *weird /wiəd/ fierce fakir Pierce*

-ear , ia , eu, eo as in *idea, lan museum theory*

Note: *real*

/eə /

Most common spellings:

-are as in *care rare share mare*

-air as in *air fair pair chair*

-ear as in *bear pear wear tear*

Note: *there /ðeə/*

/ʊə /

Most common spellings:

-oor as in *poor /pʊə /*

-ure as in *cure /kjʊə/ sure /ʃʊə / endure / in'dʒʊə /*

-ur as in *curious /kjʊəriəs/ during /dʒuərin/ security*

-ewer as in *sewer /sjuə /*

-our as in *tour /tuə /*

Note: *fluent /fluənt/ truant /truənt/ jewel /juəl /*

Triphthongs (Diphthongs + /ə /)

/aiə/ as in:

fire tyre choir /kwai / society hire liable

higher shyer buyer liar

/auə/ as in:

our /au / shower flower coward /kau d/ nowadays tower towel

/eiə/ as in :

player greyer conveyor layer prayer

/əʊə/ as in : slower lower

/ɔɪə/ as in : employer destroyer enjoyable

Exercises on vowel sounds:

1.- Put the words in the right column

/ɪ/ /i:/ /eɪ/ /æ/ /ɪ/

coffee beef cakes banana cabbage orange beans cauliflower lettuce
potato sardines can came bat gang heat hot fame tan wheat not
receive bay she risk

2.- Put the words in the right column

/ʊ:/ /ɪ/ /u:/ /ʊ/ / /
auuction

auction boot bought could gone goods lose put rotten stall through
watch more

3.- Put the words in the right column

/i:/ /ɪ:/ /ɜ:/ /u:/ /ɑ:/

sport start shoe serve team arm court draw first grew heart lose ski
speed world can't trough hurt

4.- Which is the odd word in each line according to their vowel sound?

a.- cheek heel knee heart

b.- waist hay calf sprain

c.- ice rib wrist sting

d.- burn thumb work hurt

e.- view blood bruise flu

5.- a. - Which of the following words have similar vowel sound?

bread clear learn mean steak wear

b.- Add the words of 5.a.- to the correct column:

/ i: / / iə / / 3: / / e / / er / / eə /

c.- Put the following words in the earlier right columns:

need pair egg detail career reserved mean pay squirt made detail
rare here turn

6.- Put the words in the right column

/ æ / / ʌ /

cat, cut run, ran come, can Sam, some swum, swam drank, drunk

7.- Put the words in the right column

/ ʌ / / 3: /

shirt, shut hut, hurt come, can Sam, some surfer, suffer Bert, but won, worm

8.- Put the words in the right column

/ ɔ: / / ɒ / / əv /

bought, boat cot, coat, caught cone, corn born, bone know, note, not