

I. Characters & Symbols of the American English Phonics System

A. 26 Letters of the Alphabet

1. Printed/Written Forms or Fonts (Letter Forms & Formation)

a. Upper vs. Lower Case:

[1] ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

[2] abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

b. Block Print (Manuscript) Vs. Cursive (Handwriting)

[1] AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVv WwXxYyZz

[2] *Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz*

2. Consonant Vs. Vowel Letters

a. Letters that Spell Consonant Sounds: b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x y z

[1] in All Positions, Except When “Silent”: b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v x z

[2] in Initial Syllable Position Only: w y

b. Letters that Spell Vowel Sounds Alone and in Combination: a e i o u w y

3. What the Spellings Represent (** = exceptional spelling for advanced levels only)

a. Single Consonant Letter Can Make One Sound:

[1] One Letter Always Makes Same Sound: b d f h k l m n p q r t v

[2] One Letter Can Make Various Sounds: c = /k s/, g = /g dʒ/, s = /s z/

b. Single Consonant Letter Makes Two Sounds: x = /ks/, j = /dʒ/

c. Two or Three Consonant Letters Make One Sound:

[1] Digraphs: ch (makes 2 sounds) ng ph sh th wh = /tʃ ɲ f ʃ θ or ð w (or hw)/

[2] Doubled Consonant Letters Make One Sound in Medial or Final Word Position:

bb cc ck (= k) dd dge (= dʒ) ff gg ll mm nn pp rr ss tt tch (= tʃ) zz

[3] Consonant Sequence with Silent Letter Makes One Sound Only:

[a] in Initial Syllable Position: **gh- (= g); wh- (= h); kn- (= n), **gn- (= n),

**pn- (= n); **ps- (= s), sc- (= s); **rh- (= r), wr- (= r); **gh (= f)

[b] in Final Position: -lf (= f), -lk (= k), -mb (= m), **mn (= m), -gn (= n), **bt (= t)

d. Consonant Clusters = Two or Three Blended Sounds

[1] in Initial Syllable Position: bl-, br-; *chr-, cl-, cr-; dr-; fl-, fr-; gl-, gr-; *phr-, pl-, pr-,

sc-, *sch-, scr-, shr-, sk-, sl-, sm-, sn-, sp-, spl-, spr-, sq-, st-, str-, sw-, thr-, tr

[2] in Final Position: -ft, -lf, -lk (= k), -mb (= m), -mn (= m), *-gn (= n), *-bt (= t)

e. One-Letter Vowel Spellings

[1] in “Closed Syllable” (C)VC Pattern: a e i (**y) o u = /æ, ɛ, ɪ, ʌ or ɔ, ʌ or ʊ/

[2] in “Open Syllable” (C)V Pattern: a e i (**y) o u = /eɪ iː ʌɪ ʊʊ uː/

f. Two or More Vowel-Letter Combination Spellings

[1] in Final Syllable Position Only: -ay **ey **uy

[2] between Consonants and/or in Final Position): **au ea ee ei **eu ew ie **ieu

oa ou ow ue **ui oi oy

[3] with final silent -e: a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e, **y-e

[4] including silent consonants in vowel sound: **et, *-eigh -igh **augh **ough

B. Phonetic Symbols for Sounds (* = distinct pronunciations only in some dialects)

1. American Dictionary Respelling Symbols:

a. Vowel Sounds: ă ě ĩ ō ŭ *ō dō; ā ē ī ō ū ou oi; *a:(r) û(r); *â(r)

b. Consonant Sounds: b p d t g k v f th th z s zh sh j ch; m n ng; r l; w y; h

2. International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) Sound Symbols

a. Vowels: /æ ɛ ɪ ʌ ɔ ʊ; eɪ iː ʌɪ ʊʊ u ʌʊ ɔɪ; *ä(r) ɜ(r); *ɛ̃(r) *ĩ(r) *ɑ̃(r) *ɔ̃(r) *ʊ(r) *ã(r) /

b. Consonant Sounds: / b p d t g k v f ð θ z s ʒ ʃ dʒ tʃ; m n ŋ; r l; w y; h /

II. 40 or More Sounds of the American English Language

A. 24 Consonant Sounds = / b p d t g k v f ð θ z s ʒ ʃ dʒ tʃ; m n ŋ; r l; w y; h /

1. Pronunciation = with Full or Partial Closure of the Vocal Tract

a. Point of Articulation

[1] Bilabial /b p m w/ [2] Labiodental: /v f/ [3] Dental: /ð θ/ [4] Alveolar /d t z s n r l/
[5] Post-Alveolar: /ʒ ʃ dʒ tʃ/ [6] Palatal: /y/ [7] Velar: /g k ŋ/ [8] Glottal: /h/

b. Manner of Articulation

[1] Stops: /b p d t g k/ [2] Continuants = (Af)fricatives: /v f ð θ z s ʒ ʃ dʒ tʃ h/
[3] Nasals /m n ŋ/ [4] Liquids: /r l/ [5] Semivowels: w y

c. Voicing

[1] Voiced: / b d g v ð z ʒ dʒ; m n ŋ; r l; w y/
[2] Unvoiced/Voiceless: /p t k f θ s ʃ tʃ; h/

2. How the Consonant Sounds are Spelled (* = unusual spelling for that sound)

a. by the Same One or Doubled Letter or Digraph: /b p d g v ð θ; m n; r l; w y; h/

b. by Various Letters Depending on Position, Adjacent Letters, etc: /t/ = t d /k/ = c ck k
/f/ = f *ph *gh /z/ = z s /s/ = s c /ʒ/ = s g /ʃ/ = sh *ch *ci *si /dʒ/ = j g dge /tʃ/ = ch tch
/ŋ/ = n ng

c. with Additional Letters in Certain Positions: *-gu(e) = /g/ qu- = /kw/ *-que = /k/
-ve = /v/ -the = /ð/ -ce, -se = /s/ -se = /z/ -dge = /j/

d. in Combination with Silent Consonant Letters:

[1] in Initial Syllable Position: *gh- (= g); wh- (= h); kn- (= n), gn- (= n),
*pn- (= n); *ps- (= s), sc- (= s); *rh- (= r), wr- (= r); *-gh (= f)

[2] in Final Position: -lf (= f), -lk (= k), -mb (= m), -mn (= m), -gn (= n), *-bt (= t)

B. 16 (to 22) Vowel Sounds = / æ ε ɪ α ʌ ɔ ʊ; eɪ iː ɑɪ ɒ u ɔɪ; ä(r) ɜ(r) /

1. Pronunciation = without Closure of the Vocal Tract (No Mouth Parts Touching)

a. Positions of Lips & Tongue

[1] From Closed/Spread to Open/Rounded Lips, Front to Back: /iː eɪ ɪ ε æ α ʌ ʊ ɒ u uː/

[2] Diphthongs Move from One Sound to Another: / eɪ ɑɪ ɒ u uː ɔɪ /

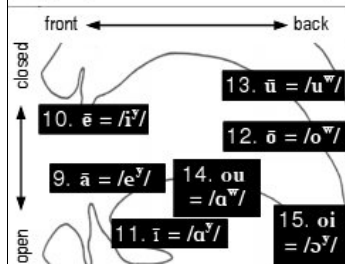
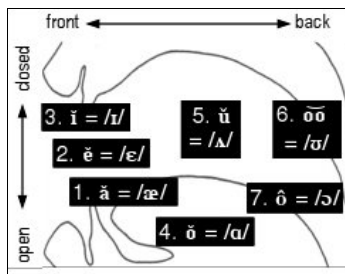
c. Kinds of Vowel Sounds

[1] Simple (= Relaxed, "Short"): / æ ε ɪ α ʌ ɔ ʊ; /

[2] Complex (= Tense, "Long," Doubled/Diphthongized): / eɪ iː ɑɪ ɒ u ɔɪ /

[3] R-Colored Insert ə: / ä(r) ɜ(r) (+ /ɛ̃(r) *ĩ(r) *ɑ̃(r) *ɔ̃(r) *ʊ(r) *ã(r)/)

2. How the Vowel Sounds are Spelled (* = unusual spelling for that sound)



Spelling of All Vowel Sounds: Letters = Phonetic Sound-Symbols									
Simple (Single, One-Letter, Lax, "Short") Vowel Sounds 1-8r									
-a-	-e-	-i-	-o-	-u-	-oo-	-a--o-	-a(r)-	-e(r)-	
au***	-ea-*	-y-*	-a-	-o-*ou**	-u-	-ou-* -ow-*	-ea(r)-	-i(r)--u(r)-	
ai***	ie*** a***	e***	-oe***	-o***	au(gh)***	ou(gh)***	***	-o(r)-*	
	ai***	ee***	-oo-***	-oul-***	ou***	oa*** -o-		-ea(r)-**	
	ay***	o*** u***							
1. ā =	2. ē =	3. ī =	4. ô =	5. ü =	6. oo =	7. ô =	7r. a:(r)	8r. ū(r) =	
/æ/	/e/	/ɪ/	/ɑ/	/ʊ/	/ʊ/	/ɔ/	= /ä/r	/ɜ(r)	
Complex (Two- or More Letters, Tense, "Long") Vowel Sounds 9-15									
-ai-	-ea-	-ie- -ie	-oa- -ow	-oo- -u-e	-ou-	-oi-			
-ay	-ee-	-i-e -i-*	-o-e -o-*	-ew* -u-*	-ow-	-oy			
-a-e	-e-e*	-y** -y-e**	-ou(gh)**	-eu-*** ue***	-ow				
-a*	-e*	-igh**	-oe-***	-ou-*** -ui-***	-owe-**				
-eigh-**	-ie-** ei**	-ei(gh)***	-eau***	-o-e***					
-ei-*** -ey**	-i-e*** -e(y)***	-uy***							
10. ā =	11. ē =	12. ī =	13. ô =	14. ū =	15. ou =	16. oi =			
/eɪ/ or /eː/	/i/ or /iː/	/aɪ/ or /aː/	/oʊ/ or /oː/	/u/ or /uː/	/ɑʊ/ or /ɑː/	/ɔɪ/ or /ɔː/			

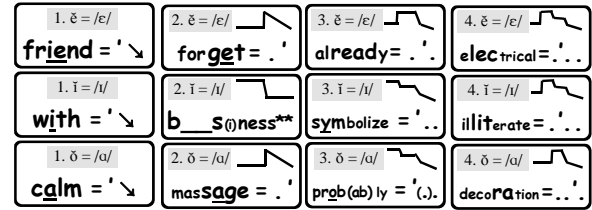
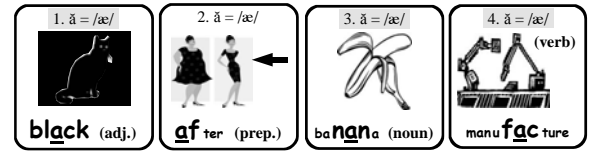
III. Word Parts

A. One or More Sounds, Spelled by One or More Letters, per Syllable

1. One Vowel Sound = One Syllable = One “Beat” in Speech (No Syllable without a Vowel)
2. May or May Not Include Consonants (C = a Single Letter, Digraph, or Cluster)
 - a. “Closed Syllable” = (C)VC
 - b. “Open Syllable” = (C)V

B. Syllable Pronunciation and Spelling

1. One-Syllable Words Stressed (Emphasized) = '
 - a. Two-Syllable Words: 1st or 2nd Syllable Stressed, Other Weakly Stressed or Unstressed: ' . or . '
 - b. Three-Syllable Words: 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Syllable Stressed: ' . , or ' . . or . ' . or , . ' or . . ' , etc.
 - c. Four or More-Syllable Words: One Syllable with Primary Emphasis, One or Two Weakly Stressed, Others Unstressed (“Reduced in Pronunciation”)
 - d. Vowels in Stressed Syllables Pronounced Louder, Longer, with Higher Pitch, and Clearer Than Unstressed Vowels, Especially “Reduced” Vowels
 - e. Rules for Syllable Division in Spelling:
 - [1] After Prefixes and Before Suffixes
 - [2] Between (Doubled) Letters That Don’t Blend in Digraphs or Clusters
 - [3] After Final Consonants of Stressed Syllables with Simple-Vowel Sounds
 - [4] After Complex-Vowel Spellings of Open Syllables



With or without pictures or phonetic notation, multi-syllable items can be sorted (“matched”) in various ways: according to the number of syllables they contain, their syllable-stress patterns or intonation, their stressed vowel sounds, their parts of speech or meaning.

C. Word Parts of One or More Syllables Each: Follow Spelling Rules

1. Roots or Stems, Often of Greek or Roman Origin & Approximate Meanings
2. Affixes = Parts Added to Words, Usually at the Beginning or End
 - a. Prefixes Added Before Roots—Have Approximate Meanings
 - b. Suffixes Added After Roots Invoke Spelling Rules—Like Double the Final Consonant, Drop Final Silent -e, Change the -y to -i-, etc.
 - [1] Inflectional Suffixes with Grammar Functions: Plural, Past Tense, Comparative, etc.
 - [2] Suffixes May Indicate Parts of Speech: Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs

D. Components of Compound Vocabulary Items

1. Closed/Solid Compounds = Single Multi-Syllable Words Composed of One or More Smaller Verbs with Separate Meanings
2. Hyphenated Compounds, Typically Adjectives in Noun Phrases or Multi-Word Nouns
3. Open Compounds: Two or More Separate Words in Phrases with Their Own Meanings

IV. Word Pairs or Groups in phonic/spelling

- A. Rimes & Rhyming Words
- B. Homographs = Words with the Same Spellings but Different Pronunciation and Meanings
- C. Homophones = Words with the Same Pronunciation but Different Spelling and Meanings
- D. “Near Misses” = Easily Confused Words to Be Studied