

Appendix 1. PHONETICS

Some consonants and their combinations

Combinations with *h*

Letter	Sound	Position	Examples	Exceptions
ch	[tʃ]		chair, watch, speech, change	
	[ʃ]	French words	machine, chauffeur	
	[k]	Greek words	charcter, chemistry, chaos	
gh	[-]	initial	ghost, ghastly, ghetto	
		final	through, though, thorough	
		+ t	daughter, caught, brought	[f] draught
		after i	high, night, eight	
	[f]	final	(in some words) enough, rough, tough, cough, laugh	
ph	[f]		photo, telephone, paragraph	
sh	[ʃ]		sheep, friendship, English	
th	[θ]	initial, final	theatre, tenth, thought	[t] Thames; [ð] smooth
	[ð]	intervocal	weather, gather, bathe (in "content" words)	[θ] author, Arthur, method
		initial	this, thus, they, though	
wh	[w]		when, whisper, why	
	[h]	+ o	who, whole, whose	
ng	[ŋ]		long, thing, lung, fang	[ŋŋ] singular
	[ŋg]	+ l, r, er	English, single, angry, hungry, longer, finger	[ŋ] singer, ringer
nk	[ŋg]		thank, monk, wink, sunk	

"Dumb" letters

Letter	Sound	Position	Examples
b	[-]	bt, mb	debt, doubt, bomb, comb, climb
c			muscle
d			Wednesday
g		gn, gm	sign, reign, paradigm

h		honest, honour, hour, vehicle; <i>also see wh</i>
k	kn	knife, know, knee
l		should, could, would, half, calm, palm, salmon, walk, talk, folk
n	mn	column, autumn, hymn
p		pneumatic, psychology, receipt
s		isel, island
t		often, whistle, fasten, castle
w		<i>see wh</i>

Sound – letter

Vowels

Sound	Letter	Examples	Exceptions
1. Monophthongs			
[i:]	e	we, he, metre	
	ee	bee, green, need	
	ea	sea, please, speak	[eɪ] great, break, steak; [ɪə] real, ideal, theatre
			[e] meant, threat, heavy, heaven, breakfast
	c, s + ei	ceiling, seize, receive	
[e]	ie	piece, believe, field	[e] friend
	e	end, red, better	[ɪ] English
	ea + d, (l)th	ready, health	[i:] bead, (to) read, (to) lead, breathe
[ə]	er	weather	
	sant, sure	pleasant, measure	
[ɑ:]	ar	dark, part, car	
	aft	after, craft, draft	
	al + f, m	half, calm, palm	
	an + <i>consonant</i>	answer, can't, chance	[ɜ:] and, hand, land, transport, transfer
	as + k, p, s, t	ask, clasp, class, last	[æ] mass, passive, passage
	ath	bath, rather, father	[eɪ] bather; [æ] gather
[ɔ:]	or	story, short, born	

	ore	more, store, bored	
	oar	oar, board, soar	
	our	four, your, course	[ɜ:] journey, journal
	al + <i>consonant</i>	tall, talk, also, always	[æ] shall, rally, Sally
	au, aw	autumn, cause, awful	[ɑ:] aunt, laugh
	au, ou + ght	caught, thought, daughter	[ɑ:] draught
	w, qu + ar	war, warm, quarter, quarrel	
[ɒ]	o + <i>consonant</i> <i>except l</i>	sorry, horror, lost, bother	[əʊ] both, comb, most, post; [ʌ] worry
	w, qu + a	was, want, quantity	
[(j)u:]	j, l, r + u, ew	June, true, blue, blew, grew	
	oo	too, food, cool, soon, root	[ʊ] good, wood, foot, wool, room; [ʌ] blood, flood
	u	use, suit, student	[ɪ] busy; [ʌ] study
	eu, ew	knew, neutral, Euclid	
[ʊ]	oo + k	look, book, shook	
	u + ll, sh	full, pull, push, bush	
[ʌ]	u	must, but, hurry	[ʊ] put, pudding
	o + m, n, v, th, z	come, son, above, other, dozen	[u:] move, prove
	ou, ough	young, southern, enough, rough	[əʊ] bough, dough, though; [aʊ] plough; [u:] through; [ɒf] cough
[ɜ:]	e, i, y, u + r	person, girl, myrtle, surface	
	ear + <i>consonant</i>	learn, early, earth	[ɑ:] heart; [ɪə] beard
	w + or	word, work, world	[ɔ:] worn

2. Diphthongs

[eɪ]	a	take, name, sale	
	ai, ay	rain, said, maid	[e] said, says
	ei, ey	eight, weight, grey	[aɪ] eye, height, (n)either; [i:] key
[aɪ]	i, y	nice, sky, fly	
	igh	high, night, bright	
	ign	sign, design, align	

	i + il, nd	child, wild, mind, behind	[ɪ] wind(ow), children, wilderness
[ɔɪ]	oi, oy	coin, noise, boy	
[aʊ]	ou	out, house, south	[u:] you, group, soup, route
	ow + <i>consonant</i>	down, brown, crowd	[əʊ] own
[əʊ]	o	so, go, rose	[u:] do, two, who, shoe, lose
	oa	boat, coast, road	[ɔ:] broad
	ol + <i>consonant</i>	old, folk, roll, bolt	[ɒ] doll; [ʊ] wolf
	ou + l	shoulder, soul, mould	[ʊ] could, should, would
	ow (<i>final</i>)	know, crow, slow	[aʊ] how, now, allow
[eə]	ar + <i>vowel</i>	care, Mary, daring	[ɑ:] are
	air, eir	chair, hair, heir, their	
[ɪə]	er + <i>vowel</i>	here, zero, period	[eə] there, where; [ɜ:] were
	ear, eer	bear, beer, dear, deer	[eə] (to) tear, wear
	ier	fierce, pierce	
[(j)u:ə]	ur + <i>vowel</i>	sure, plural, during	
	oor	boor, poor, moor	[ɔ:] door, floor
3. Triphthongs			
[aɪə]	ir, yr + <i>vowel</i>	fire, irony, Byron	
	ia, io	dialogue, trial, violet	
[aʊə]	our	our, hour, flour, sour	[ʊə] tour
	ow, er (+ <i>vowel</i>)	flower, dowager, coward	
[ɔɪə]	oyer	employer, destroyer	
[əʊə]	o(w)er	slower, rower, goer	

Letter – sound

Aa						
[eɪ]	[æ]	[ɑ:]	[eə]	[ɔ:]	[ɒ]	[ə]
make same	cat bag	past grass	care bare	tall salt	watch wash	about delta

Ee				
[i:]	[ɪ]	[ɜ:]	[ɪə]	[ɑ:]
we need	begin repeat	serve her	mere here	sergeant clerk

Ii				
[aɪ]	[ɪ]	[i:]	[ɜ:]	[aɪə]
fine fine	his pick	machine ravine	bird fir	fire wire

Yy				
[aɪ]	[ɪ]	[ɜ:]	[aɪə]	[j]
sky style	icy myth	myrtle myrrh	tyre lyre	year yet

Oo				
[əʊ]	[ɒ]	[u:]	[ʌ]	[ɔ:]
bone home	not got	who do	come son	more for

Uu					
[ju:]	[u:]	[(j)u:]	[ʌ]	[ʊ]	[ɜ:]
tune mute	rule June	core sure	cut fuss	put full	turn burn

General rule and some special cases¹

In the following positions vowels in open syllables are read like those in closed and vice versa.

Open syllable			Closed syllable
Letter	one consonant + l, r		two consonants + le
a	able, maple	A l p h a b e t i c r e a d i n g	apple, battle
e	negro		settle, kettle
i/y	idle, cycle		middle, simple
o	noble, only		bottle, mottle
u	bugle, nuclear		puddle, muddle
a	vowel + ste, nge		vowel + st, ng
	taste, angel, danger		last, anger
	waste, strange, change		vast, hang
a	vowel + v		vowel + v
	save, brave		have
e	eve, even		ever, every, seven
i	dive, alive		give, live
a	in 2-3-syllable words		in 2-3-syllable words
	'capable, 'famous		'capital, 'family
e	'equal(ize), 'epoch		'energy, 'element
i/y	'minus, 'microbe		'minute, 'physics
o	'process, 'progress		'product, 'property
a	in words without final i		in words with final i
	later		Latin, habit
i	final		visit, finish
o	local	logic, solid	

¹ Words in small letters illustrate the general rule for reading open and closed syllables.