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Spelling Tutor's

Diary/Dictionary of Sounds

Sixth Edition

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“There is a balm in Gilead ...” (African-American Spiritual)

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Introduction

Three of the main difficulties that students experience in spelling are:

1. Knowing the variety of ways to spell sounds and when to use each way.
2. Keeping the sounds in order. (All of the letters may be included but the order is wrong.)
3. Including all of the syllables and keeping them in order in longer words.

Using this diary / dictionary helps directly with the first two of these difficulties and indirectly with the third.

The sounds made by letters or groups of letters are often shown between / /.

/a/ is the short vowel sound as in “hat”.

/A/ is the name of the vowel, its long sound.

/ə/ is the almost grunting sound made by many vowels in syllables that are not stressed.

/ōō/ is the long vowel sound in “food”.

/ōō/ is the short vowel sound in “look”.

/zh/ is the sound in “measure” and “vision”.

You will need to make allowances for local variations in pronunciation. Ignore these symbols if they are confusing.

Instructions

1. When you have trouble spelling a word, **analyse it**.
2. If you are making a mistake in spelling a sound, find the right way to spell the sound in this book.
3. Write in the correct spelling of the word with the list of words.
4. Learn the new word with the group of words.

For example:

1. Suppose you have spelled “fraction” as “fracshun”. The main error is in the spelling of the /sh/ sound.
2. Go to “Tricky Consonant Sounds” – “ti” on page 27.
3. Write “fraction” under “ti” next to action and education.
4. Learn fraction with the other “tion” words.

When vowels are not stressed, they often sound like an indistinct, almost grunting sound known as “schwa” (/ə/). When you are learning to spell these words, emphasise the usual sound of the vowel – final, farmer, doctor, collar, mountain, famous, biscuit ...

Common Vowel Sounds

a ... 4

e ... 4

i y ... 4

o ... 5

u ... 5

a_e ay ai ... 5

e_e ee ea ie ei eigh ey ... 6

i_e igh y_e ye ... 7

o_e oa oe ... 7

u_e ew ue ... 8

er ir ur ... 8

ar ... 9

or aw au ... 9

oo ... 10

oy oi ... 10

ow ou ... 10

a	a = /ʌ/ table (<i>ta-ble</i>) creative (<i>cre-a-tive</i>) nation (<i>na-tion</i>)
hat camp animal (<i>an-i-mal</i>) family (<i>fam-i-ly</i>)	
In the middle of a stressed syllable.	At the end of a stressed syllable.

a = /ar/	a = /ə/
ask grass staff path after (<i>af-ter</i>) father (<i>fa-ther</i>) tomato (<i>to-ma-to</i>) apparatus (<i>ap-pa-ra-tus</i>)	final (<i>fi-nal</i>) commendable (<i>com-mend-a-ble</i>) peninsula (<i>pe-nin-su-la</i>) algebra (<i>al-ge-bra</i>) nausea (<i>nau-se-a</i>) orchestra (<i>or-ches-tra</i>)
Often when followed by two consonants starting with s, f or th (or n in some countries – dance, can't); sometimes at the end of a stressed syllable.	Not stressed. Can sound like /u/ on the end of a word.

wa
was want wander (<i>wan-der</i>) what quality (<i>qual-ity</i>)
Beware of "w", "wh" and "qu" !

e	e = /E/
egg men pest enter (<i>en-ter</i>) lesson (<i>les-son</i>)	he be me preschool (<i>pre-school</i>) recent (<i>re-cent</i>)
In the middle of a stressed syllable.	At the end of a stressed syllable.
See also silent "e", p30.	

i	i = /I/	i = /I/
hill spit official (<i>of-fi-cial</i>) immediate (<i>im-me-di-ate</i>)	tricycle (<i>tri-cy-cle</i>) recital (<i>re-ci-tal</i>) rival (<i>ri-val</i>) crisis (<i>cri-sis</i>)	find kind pint Christ climb (mb=/m/ p30)
In the middle or at the end of a syllable.	At the end of a stressed syllable.	Sometimes when followed by two consonants.
i = /E/	i = /I/	
ski spaghetti (from Italian)	cacti (or /E/) alumni (Latin plurals)	

y = /E/	y = /I/	y = /i/
happy (<i>hap-py</i>) twenty (<i>twen-ty</i>) funny (<i>fun-ny</i>)	my by try fly reply (<i>re-ply</i>) hydrogen (<i>hy-dro-gen</i>) encyclopedia (<i>en-cy-clo-pe-di-a</i>) pigsty (<i>pig+sty</i>) modify (<i>mod-i-fy</i>)	myth system (<i>sys-tem</i>) crystal (<i>crys-tal</i>)
At the end of a word with more than one syllable.	At the end of a stressed syllable, a compound word, or a word ending with -ify.	In the middle of a stressed syllable
In Old and Middle English "y" was often used instead of "i". When "y" is a vowel it still works like the letter "i".		
Remember "y" can also be a consonant in you, yes, yellow...See p 23.		
Put single vowels in syllables that are not stressed with the closest sound if there is not a section for /ə/.		

o	o = /O/	o = /u/	o = /oo/
hot frog <i>opera (op-era)</i> <i>soccer (soc-cer)</i>	go no <i>potato (po-ta-to)</i> <i>oval (o-val)</i>	front <i>wonder</i> come <i>stomach</i> <i>company</i> accomplish love <i>cover</i>	do to who
In the middle of a stressed syllable.	At the end of a word or a stressed syllable.	Before n, m or v.	

o = /O/
most post gold comb (mb=/m/ p30)
Sometimes when followed by two consonants. (See I=/I/, p4)

u	u = /U/
up run <i>until (un-til)</i> <i>under (un-der)</i>	<i>utility (u-til-i-ty)</i> <i>uniform (u-ni-form)</i> <i>unusual (un-u-su-al)</i> <i>nucleus (nu-cle-us)</i> <i>menu (men-u)</i>
u = /oo/	u = /oo/
put full bush	<i>truly (tru-ly)</i> <i>scuba (scu-ba)</i> <i>guru (gu-ru)</i> (first u can be /oo/)
In the middle of a syllable.	At the end of a syllable.
See also page 12 (busy, language), p32 (build, guess ...)	

a_e = /A/
game stake brave <i>calculate (cal-cu-late)</i>
When we add a silent "e" (after one consonant following one vowel) the vowel usually says its name.

ay = /A/
play tray <i>staying (stay-ing)</i> <i>away (a-way)</i> <i>today (to-day)</i>
We use "ay" on the end of a word or syllable.

ai = /A/	ai = /ə/
aim brain praise <i>sailor (sail-or)</i> <i>daisy (dai-sy)</i> <i>available (a-vail-a-ble)</i> <i>detail (de-tail or de-tail)</i>	<i>certain (cer-tain)</i> <i>mountain (moun-tain)</i>
Usually stressed.	Not stressed.
We do not usually use "ai" on the end of a word.	

e_e = /E/
<p>these theme scene <i>extreme (ex-treme)</i> <i>complete (com-plete)</i></p>

When we add a silent "e" (after one consonant following one vowel) the vowel usually says its name.

ee
<p>free keep green steel (metal) <i>agree (a-gree)</i> <i>committee (com-mit-tee)</i></p>

ea = /E/	ea = /e/	ea = /A/
<p>please speak beach steal (take something) <i>underneath</i> (un-der-neath)</p>	<p>head bread <i>feather (feath-er)</i> <i>instead (in-stead)</i> <i>ready (read-y)</i> <i>pleasant (pleas-ant)</i></p>	<p>great break (an arm or leg) steak</p>

ie = /E/	ie = /I/
<p>chief shield piece <i>believe (be-lieve)</i></p>	<p>pie lie die / dies / died try / tries / tried</p>
Exception: <u>friend</u> (to the <u>end</u>)	
"I" before "e" except after "c" if the sound is /E/.	On the end of a word.

ei = /E/	ei = /A/	ei = /I/
<p><i>deceive (de-ceive)</i> <i>receipt (re-ceipt)</i> <i>ceiling (ceil-ing)</i></p>	<p>rein (horse) reign (king)</p>	<p>height (silent "gh") <i>eiderdown</i> (ei-der-down) <i>seismic (seis-mic)</i></p>
<p>"I" before "e" except after "c" if the sound is /EE/.</p>	eigh = /A/	<p><i>either (ei-ther)</i> <i>neither (nei-ther)</i></p>
	<p>eight weight <i>neighbour</i></p>	

Some other sounds of "ei": *forfeit (for-feit) = /ə/*, *leisure (lei-sure) = /e/*, *reinforce (re-in-force) ...*
 Exceptions: names (Keith), scientific words (protein), *seize*, *seizure* (Someone seized the "e" and put it before the "i".)

ey = /E/	ey = /A/
<p>key <i>hockey (hock-ey)</i> <i>money (mon-ey)</i> <i>kidney (kid-ney)</i></p>	<p>they grey <i>obey (o-bey)</i> <i>survey (sur-vey)</i></p>
We use "ey" on the end of a word.	

i_e = /I/ hide mine refine (re-fine)	i_e = /i/ active (ac-tive) detective (de-tec-tive) expensive (ex-pen-sive)
---	---

When we add a silent "e" (after one consonant following one vowel) the vowel usually says its name.	English words cannot end in "v". See also page 30.
---	--

i_e = /E/ machine marine guillotine (guil-lo-tine) fatigue antique
--

"i_e" sounds like /EE/ in words that have come from French. See also pp 30 and 32.
--

igh = /I/ high might flight bright
--

y_e = /I/ type style rhyme (rh = /r/ see p31) <small>See p30.</small>	ye = /I/ dye (colour something) rye (like wheat) goodbye
---	---

In Old and Middle English "y" was often used instead of "i". When "y" is a vowel it still works like the letter "i".
--

o_e = /O/ home rode hope remote (re-mote)	o_e = /u/ love dove glove	o_e = /oo/ move
---	------------------------------------	--------------------

When we add a silent "e" (after one consonant following one vowel) the vowel usually says its name.	English words cannot end in "v". See also page 30.
---	--

oa = /O/ soap goat moan and groan
--

oe = /O/ toe hoe (for weeding the garden) foe (an enemy) doe (a female deer) go/goes potato/potatoes tomato/tomatoes	oe = /oo/ shoe canoe (ca-noe)	oe = /u/ does (do+es)
---	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------

oe = /E/	
amoeba (a-moe-ba)	also in US ameba
diarrhoea (di-ar-rhoe-a)	also diarrhea
foetus (foe-tus)	also chiefly in US fetus
oestrogen (oes-tro-gen)	also in US estrogen
subpoena (sub-poe-na)	silent b

An old spelling of the /E/ sound.

u_e = /U/	u_e = /oo/
use cute tune refuse (re-fuse)	flute rule June parachute (par-a-chute)
When we add a silent "e" (after one consonant following one vowel) the vowel usually says its name.	

er	er = /ə/
her germ nerve certain (cer-tain) perfect (per-fect) disperse (dis-perse) prefer (pre-fer)	enter (en-ter) summer (sum-mer) discover (dis-cov-er) gardener (gar-den-er) passenger (pas-sen-ger) advertise (ad-ver-tise) percentage (per-cen-age)
In a stressed syllable	Not in a stressed syllable.

ew = /U/	ew = /oo/
few new dew (water on ground) pewter (pew-ter) (made of tin and another metal)	blew (the wind blew) . blow chew grew grow threw (a ball) throw jewel (jew-el)

ir = /er/
bird first shirt birth circle (cir-cle)

ue = /U/	ue = /oo/
value (val-ue) rescue (res-cue) avenue (av-e-nue) Tuesday (Tues-day) overdue (pay your bills)	true blue (colour) glue clue Sue (girl's name)
English words do not usually end in "u". See also p 30. See "eu" and "ui" that also have the same sounds, p12.	

ur = /er/
hurt burn nurse return (re-turn) curtain (cur-tain)

ar	ar = /ə/
car farm particle (<i>par-ti-cle</i>) cigar (<i>ci-gar</i>)	<i>collar</i> (<i>col-lar</i>) <i>similar</i> (<i>sim-i-lar</i>) <i>sugar</i> (<i>sug-ar</i>) <i>molecular</i> (<i>mo-lec-u-lar</i>)
"Ar" stressed.	"Ar" on end, not stressed.

war
war warm warn wharf <i>quarter</i> (<i>quar-ter</i>)
Beware of "w", "wh" and "qu" !

or	or = /ə/
cork form order (<i>or-der</i>) orchestra (<i>or-ches-tra</i>)	<i>doctor</i> (<i>doc-tor</i>) <i>sailor</i> (<i>sail-or</i>) <i>editor</i> (<i>ed-i-tor</i>) <i>professor</i> (<i>pro-fes-sor</i>)
"Or" stressed.	"Or" on end, not stressed.

wor
work word world worse <i>worship</i> (<i>wor-ship</i>)
Beware of "w" !

aw = /ɔr/
saw claw crawl prawn <i>awful</i> (<i>aw-ful</i>)

We can use "aw" on the end of a word.

au = /ɔr/
cause because (<i>be-cause</i>) author (<i>au-thor</i>) audience (<i>au-di-ence</i>) astronaut (<i>as-tro-naut</i>)
<i>daughter</i> (<i>daugh-ter</i>).. ...see "augh" p 14, silent "gh" p 31
Some unusual sounds of "au": aunt = /ar/, Australia = /o/ or /ə/ ...
We do not usually use "au" on the end of a word.

oo = / \overline{oo} / food hoop roof pool	oo = / \overline{oo} / foot good cook hoof	oo = /u/ blood flood
In some places both sound more like / \overline{oo} /.		

ow how cow brown growl <i>flower (flow-er)</i>	ow = /O/ low grow growth <i>below (be-low)</i> <i>window (win-dow)</i>
"Ow" can be used on the end of a word.	

oy boy toy <i>destroy (des-troy)</i> <i>enjoy (en-joy)</i> <i>enjoyable (en-joy-a-ble)</i> <i>royal (roy-al)</i>
We use "oy" on the end of a word or syllable.

ou = /ow/ loud shout ground <i>mountain (moun-tain)</i>	ou = / \overline{oo} / you soup group <i>troupe (circus)</i> <i>wound (injury)</i>	ou = /u/ touch young <i>country (coun-try)</i> <i>trouble (trou-ble)</i>
ou = /O/ soul <i>shoulder (shoul-der)</i> <i>poultry (poul-try)</i>	ou = /ə/ <i>famous (fa-mous)</i> <i>enormous (e-nor-mous)</i> <i>camouflage (cam-ou-flage)</i>	
We do not usually use "ou" on the end of a word.		

oi = /oy/ boil coin noise <i>rejoice (re-joice)</i> <i>poison (poi-son)</i>
We do not use "oi" on the end of a word.

**Less Common Vowel Sounds / Vowel-
Consonant Sounds**

i ... 12

u ... 12

eu ui ... 12

re ... 12

ae ... 12

al le ... 13

oar oor ore our ... 13/14

ough augh ... 14

are air aer ... 15

ire ... 15

ure ... 15

ear eer ere eir ... 16

i = /y/
<i>million (mil-lion)</i> <i>union (u-nion)</i> <i>rebellious (re-bel-lious)</i>
Consonant sound

u = /i/	u = /w/
busy business	<i>language (lan-guage)</i> <i>penguin (pen-guin)</i> <i>persuade (per-suade)</i> <i>extinguish (ex-tin-guish)</i>
Unusual vowel sound	Consonant sound

Remember the common vowel sounds as in up, usual ... and “gu” = /g/ (guitar ...), p 32.

eu = /U/	eu = /ōo/
<i>Europe (Eu-ropе)</i> <i>eucalyptus (eu-ca-lyp-tus)</i> <i>neutral (neu-tral)</i> <i>Eucharist (Eu-cha-rist)</i> <i>euthanasia (eu-tha-na-sia)</i>	leukaemia or leukemia (US) (leu-kae-mi-a) <i>rheumatism (rheu-ma-tism)</i> See “rh” = /r/, p 31.

ui = /U/	ui = /ōo/	ui = /ə/
<i>nuisance (nui-sance)</i> <i>pursuit (pur-suit)</i>	suit fruit juice bruise recruit (re-cruit)	<i>biscuit (bis-cuit)</i> <i>circuit (cir-cuit)</i> <i>circuitry (cir-cuit-ry)</i>
		"Ui" not stressed.

re = /ə/ or /er/
<i>centre (cen-tre)</i> <i>metre (me-tre) (a distance)</i> <i>litre (li-tre)</i> <i>fibre (fi-bre)</i> <i>theatre (the-a-tre)</i> <i>massacre (mas-sa-cre)</i>
In words that have come from French. In the U.S. "er" is usually used instead.

ae = /E/	ae = /ə/	ae = /E/
<i>encyclopaedia</i> <i>leukaemia</i> <i>mediaeval</i> <i>archaeology</i> <i>anaemic</i>	<i>gynaecologist</i> <i>anaesthetic</i> <i>Michael</i>	<i>algae</i> <i>formulae</i> <i>antennae</i> <i>amoebae</i> <i>nebulae (or /I/)</i>
In a stressed syllable.	Not in a stressed syllable.	Plural of words ending in “a”. Usually sounds like /E/.
An old spelling still often used in medical and scientific words. Occasionally it sounds like /A/ in maelstrom or /e/ in haemorrhage.		

Vowel sounds:	
al = /ɔr/ walk talk chalk tall wall fall	al = /ɑr/ half calf calm <i>almond (al-mond)</i>

Vowel/consonant sounds:	
al = /ɔr/ salt false waltz <i>always (al-ways)</i>	al = /əl/ <i>metal (met-al)</i> <i>practical (prac-ti-cal)</i> <i>individual (in-di-vid-u-al)</i> <i>principal (prin-ci-pal)</i>
	"-al" not stressed

See also silent "l" page 31.

le = /l/ or more accurately /əl/ <i>apple (ap-ple)</i> <i>table (ta-ble)</i> <i>puzzle (puz-zle)</i> <i>jungle (jun-gle)</i> <i>little (lit-tle)</i> <i>beetle (bee-tle)</i> <i>principle (prin-ci-ple)</i>
--

Word ends with consonant-le. See also silent "e" page 30.

oar = /ɔr/ oar (to row a boat) board soar (fly like a bird) coarse (rough)
--

oor = /ɔr/ door floor poor (no money)
In some places in the world this sounds almost like /ōɔr/.

ore = /ɔr/ more core store (shop) sore (Did you cut yourself ?) fore (front; also used as a prefix, e.g. forequarter of beef) pore (hole in skin for sweat) <i>explore (ex-plore)</i> <i>restore (re-store)</i>

<p style="text-align: center;">our = /or/</p> <p>four (4) pour (drink of water) source (beginning) course (of study) court (for basketball)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">our = /er/</p> <p><i>journal (jour-nal)</i> <i>scourge (something awful)</i> <i>courtesy (cour-te-sy)</i> <i>courteous (cour-te-ous)</i></p>
---	---

<p style="text-align: center;">our</p> <p>hour scour flour (for cooking) devour (de-vour)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">our</p> <p>tour</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">our = /ə/</p> <p><i>colour (col-our)</i> <i>favour (fa-vour)</i> <i>honour (hon-our)</i> <i>tumour (tu-mour)</i> <i>labour (la-bour)</i> <i>saviour (sav-iour)</i></p>
<p>Last syllable not stressed. In the U.S. "or" is used instead of "our".</p>		

Vowel sounds:				
<p>ough=/or/ ought bought brought fought thought sought nought (zero)</p>	<p>ough = /ow/ bough plough drought</p>	<p>ough = /O/ though although (al-though) dough</p>	<p>ough = /oo/ through</p>	<p>ough = /ə/ thorough (thor-ough) borough (bor-ough)</p>

Vowel/consonant sounds:	
<p style="text-align: center;">ough = /uff/</p> <p>rough tough enough (e-nough)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ough = /off/</p> <p>cough (when you have a cold) trough</p>

Vowel sound:	Vowel/consonant sound:
<p style="text-align: center;">augh = /or/</p> <p>caught (a ball) taught naughty (naugh-ty) daughter (daugh-ter)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">augh = /arf/</p> <p>laugh draught draughty (draugh-ty)</p>
<p>See also silent "gh", p 31a.</p>	

are = /air/	are = /ar/
care fare (bus fare) stare (look at) <i>compare</i> (com- <i>pare</i>) (Are two things similar or not?)	are

ire
fire hire wire <i>admire</i> (ad- <i>mire</i>) <i>umpire</i> (um- <i>pire</i>)

air
air fair (You buy things at the school fair. or "It's not fair!") stairs (for you to climb up) pair (two things that match)

ure = /yōōr/	ure = /yə/
cure pure <i>mature</i> (ma- <i>ture</i>)	<i>failure</i> (fail- <i>ure</i>) <i>tenure</i> (ten- <i>ure</i>) (the time that you keep land, a position ...)
sure (In some places.)	
ure = /ōōr/	ure = /ə/
lure	<i>injure</i> (in- <i>jure</i>) <i>figure</i> (fig- <i>ure</i>) <i>adventure</i> (ad- <i>ven-ure</i>) <i>measure</i> (mea- <i>sure</i>)
"Ure" stressed.	"Ure" not stressed.

aer = /air/
<i>aerial</i> (aer-i-al) <i>aeroplane</i> (aer-o-plane) <i>aerodrome</i> (aer-o-drome) <i>aerosol</i> (aer-o-sol) <i>aerodynamic</i> (aer-o-dy-nam-ic) <i>aeronautical</i> (aer-o-nau-ti-cal) <i>aerobics</i> (aer-o-bics)

ure = /or/
sure, <i>surely</i> (sure-ly), <i>assure</i> (as- <i>sure</i>), <i>reassure</i> (re-as- <i>sure</i>) /yōōr/in some places in the world.

ear	ear = /er/	ear = /air/	ear = /ar/
ear	earth	wear	heart
year	learn	(clothes)	hearth
dear	search	bear	(fire place)
fear	pearl	(animal)	
clear	heard	pear (fruit)	
beard	<i>early</i> (<i>ear-ly</i>)	swear	
appear	<i>rehearsal</i>	(bad words)	
(<i>ap-pear</i>)	(<i>re-hear-sal</i>)	tear (rip)	
tear (cry)			

ere	ere = /air/	ere = /er/
here	there	were
<i>severe</i> (<i>se-vere</i>)	where (where ?)	(We were
(harsh or hard)	<i>compere</i> (<i>com-pere</i>)	at home.)
sphere	(person who introduces	
(shape of a ball)	people on a TV or radio	
atmosphere	show)	
(<i>at-mo-sphere</i>)	<i>premiere</i> (<i>prem-i-ere</i>)	
<i>sincerely</i> (<i>sin-cere-ly</i>)		

eer
steer
beer (drink)
<i>career</i> (<i>ca-reer</i>)
<i>engineer</i> (<i>en-gi-neer</i>)
<i>mountaineer</i> (<i>moun-tain-eer</i>)

eir	eir = /air/
weird (strange)	their (belongs to them)
weir (a low dam on a river)	heir (person who gets someone's
	things when they die) silent "h"

Easy Consonant Sounds

f ...	18
h ...	18
j ...	18
l ...	18
m ...	19
n ...	19
r ...	19
s ...	19
t ...	20
v ...	20
x ...	20
z ...	20

f	f = /v/ of
fat fish <i>follow (fol-low)</i> <i>finish (fin-ish) (end)</i> off whiff staff leaf roof	
Use double "ff" after a single vowel in a short word.	

j
jam job jump jeep <i>jolly (jol-ly)</i> <i>juggle (jug-gle)</i> <i>journalist (jour-nal-ist)</i>

h
hat hit hot hut <i>hollow (hol-low)</i> <i>unhappy (un-hap-py)</i>
See also silent "h", p 31.

l
log lid lad <i>lolly (lol-ly)</i> <i>little (lit-tle)</i> will tall <i>final (fi-nal)</i>
Use double "ll" after a single vowel in a short word. See also "ends with consonant-le" (p13), silent "e" (p30). "L" after a vowel can combine with it to make a new sound: al (talk, tall), al (half), ol (folk), oul (should). See page 31.

t	
tan	
ten	
tin	
hit	
list	
flat	<i>flatten (flat-ten)</i>
See also silent "t", p 32.	

x	x = /z/	x = /X/
six	xylophone	x-ray
fix	(xy-lo- <i>phone</i>)	
box	anxiety (an- <i>xi</i> -e-ty)	
tax	xenophobia	
maximum	(xe-no- <i>pho</i> -bi-a)	
(max-i-mum)	(fear or hatred of foreigners)	x = /gs/ example (ex- <i>am</i> -ple)
Usually if a word starts with "x".		

v	
van	
vet	
volume	(<i>vol</i> -ume)
have	
gave	
love	
English words cannot end in "v". See also silent "e", p 30.	

z	
zap	
zip	
zoo	
zebra	(<i>zeb</i> -ra)
dazzle	(<i>daz</i> -zle)
jazz	
fizz	
We usually use double "zz" after a single vowel in a short word. Exceptions: fez, quiz, whiz (or whizz).	

Tricky Consonant Sounds

b ... 22

c ... 22

d ... 22

g ... 22

p ... 23

qu ... 23

w ... 23

y ... 23

k ... 24

ck ... 24

dge ... 24

tch ... 24

ic ically ... 25

end with **ed se ce** ... 25

sh ch unusual /ch/ ... 26

ti si ci xi unusual /sh/ & /zh/ ... 27

wh ... 28

th ... 28

ph ... 28

ng ... 28

gh ... 28

b

bat
block
bubble (bub-ble)
job

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To remember "b" and "d", make your hands look like a bed. Or, **B = b** (rub out the top part of the capital B).
See also “mb” = /m/ and “bt” = /t/ page 30.

d

dog
duck
God
independent (in-de-pen-dent)

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To remember "b" and "d", make your hands look like a bed.

hard “c” = /k/	soft “c” = /s/
cat	<i>centre (cen-tre)</i> (US <i>center</i>)
cot	<i>city (cit-y)</i>
cut	<i>cycle (cy-cle)</i>
clock	<i>cylinder (cyl-in-der)</i>
crisp	ice <i>icy (i-cy)</i> <i>icicle (i-ci-cle)</i>
	Caesar, coeliac (or celiac) – “ae” and “oe” are old ways of spelling the /EE/ sound.
	“C” followed by e, i or y usually makes a /ss/ sound.
	Exceptions: soccer, sceptic, Celtic


See also “sc” = /s/ page 30.

hard “g” = /g/	soft “g” = /j/
gate	<i>gentle (gen-tle)</i>
got	<i>giraffe (gi-raffe)</i>
gun	<i>gypsy (gyp-sy)</i>
glass	<i>outrageous (out-rage-ous)</i>
grass	
girl	
mug	
get	
guide	
<i>dinghy (din-ghy)</i> (a small boat)	<i>dingy (din-gy)</i> (dark and dirty)
	“G” followed by e, i or y often makes a /j/ sound.

See also "gu" and “gue” p32.

p
post pie pack hop <i>happy (hap-py)</i>
To make your fence stand up you have to put your post <i>down</i> into the ground <i>first</i> .
See also "ps" = /s/, "pn" = /n/, "pt" = /t/ page 32.

w
wag wig wet
Beware of w! It can change the vowel sound that follows it: want warm work
See pp 4, 9. "W" after a vowel can combine with it to make a new sound: aw (draw), ew (few), ew (blew) ow (cow), ow (low).
See also "wr" = /r/, "sw" = /s/ page 32.

qu = /kw/	qu = /k/
queen quick quite <i>quiet (qui-et)</i>	quay (wharf) - pronounced /kee/ cheque (I have money in my cheque account.) – in US "check" <i>antique (an-tique)</i> <i>technique (tech-nique)</i> <i>boutique (bou-tique)</i> (a small shop) <i>racquet (rac-quet)</i> (for tennis) in US <i>racket (rack-et)</i>
	
"Q" and "u" always go together.	"Que" on end = from French.

y
yes you <i>yellow (yel-low)</i> <i>yesterday (yes-ter-day)</i>
Remember "y" can also be a vowel in myth, happy, my ... See p 4.

k	k
kangaroo (kan-ga-roo) kernel (ken-nel) keep kick kite	bake like seek soak spark rebuke (re-buke)
A /k/ sound followed by e, i or y must be spelled with "k" or "ch". See also p 26.	A /k/ sound after a 2-letter vowel sound or followed by "e" is usually spelled "k".
See also "kn" = /n/, p 31.	

ck
back deck lick sock luck
<i>pocket (pock-et)</i> <i>hockey (hock-ey)</i>
A /k/ sound after a single (short) vowel in a short word (one syllable) usually spelled "ck", but yak, chic (from French)

dge = /j/
badge hedge fridge dodge fudge
also <i>knowledge (know-ledge)</i> BUT <i>college (col-lege)</i>
A /j/ sound after a single (short) vowel in a short word (one syllable) must be spelled "dge".

tch
catch fetch hitch scotch hutch
butterscotch = butter + scotch unhitch = un + hitch
<i>kitchen (kitch-en)</i> <i>dispatch (dis-patch)</i> or <i>despatch (des-patch)</i>
A /ch/ sound after a single (short) vowel in a short word is usually spelled "tch"; BUT these common words: which, rich, such, much

ic
<i>picnic (pic-nic)</i> <i>electric (e-lec-tric)</i> <i>athletic (ath-let-ic)</i> <i>acrylic (a-cryl-ic)</i> <i>arsenic (ar-se-nic)</i>
A /k/ sound after “i” on the end of a longer word is usually spelled “c”, except for compound words:
<i>homesick (home + sick)</i> <i>joystick (joy + stick)</i> <i>pinprick (pin + prick)</i>
<i>fossick (fos-sick)</i>

<i>electric</i> <i>electrical</i> <i>electrically</i> <i>mechanic</i> <i>mechanical</i> <i>mechanically</i> <i>basic</i> <i>basically</i> <i>automatic</i> <i>automatically</i> <i>democratic</i> <i>democratically</i> <i>legalistic</i> <i>legalistically</i> <i>specific</i> <i>specifically</i>
When adding “-ly” to a word ending in “-ic”, first add “-al”. You do not hear the “al”. Exceptions: publicly, impoliticy

ed = /ed/	ed = /d/	ed = /t/
ended added acted hated	tried try cubed caged tagged called tamed manned cared stored waved dozed pleased smoothed	faced puffed laughed graphed kicked joked chopped faxed watched wished lapsed dressed unearthed
“-ed” is added to a word to make the past tense. It can sound like /ed/, /d/ or /t/. /d/ is the most common.		

se = /s/	se = /z/
dose close	nose please because close
On the end of a word. See silent “e”, page 30.	

ce = /s/
face nice price
peace piece
On the end of a word. See soft “c”=/s/ p22, silent “e” p30.

<p>ti = /sh/ <i>action</i> (<i>ac-tion</i>) <u>act</u> <i>education</i> (<i>ed-u-ca-tion</i>) .. <u>educate</u> <i>ratio</i> (<i>ra-ti-o</i>) <i>patient</i> (<i>pa-tient</i>) <i>ambitious</i> (<i>am-bi-tious</i>) <i>confidential</i> (<i>con-fi-den-tial</i>)</p>	<p>ti = /zh/ <i>equation</i> (<i>e-qua-tion</i>)</p> <hr/> <p>ti = /ch/ <i>combustion</i> <i>(com-bus-tion)</i> <i>question</i> (<i>ques-tion</i>) <i>suggestion</i> <i>digestion</i></p> <hr/> <p>After "s".</p>
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<p>ci = /sh/ <i>gracious</i> (<i>gra-cious</i>) <u>grace</u> <i>suspicious</i> (<i>sus-pi-cious</i>) <i>racial</i> (<i>ra-ci-al</i>) <u>race</u> <i>official</i> (<i>of-fi-cial</i>) <u>office</u> <i>optician</i> (<i>op-ti-cian</i>) <u>optics</u></p> <p>...</p> <p>BUT <i>conscience</i> (<i>con-science</i>) => <u>conscientious</u> <i>(con-sci-en-tious)</i></p>

<p>si = /zh/ <i>Asian</i> (<i>A-sian</i>) <i>television</i> (<i>tel-e-vi-sion</i>) <i>confusion</i> (<i>con-fu-sion</i>) <u>confuse</u> <i>division</i> (<i>di-vi-sion</i>) <u>divide</u> <i>occasion</i> (<i>oc-ca-sion</i>)</p>	<p>si = /sh/ <i>session</i> (<i>ses-sion</i>) <i>discussion</i> (<i>dis-cus-sion</i>) <u>discuss</u> <i>permission</i> (<i>per-mis-sion</i>) <u>permit</u> <i>expansion</i> (<i>ex-pan-sion</i>) <u>expand</u></p>
<p>"-sion" after a vowel.</p>	<p>"-ssion", or "-sion" after a consonant.</p>

Unusual ways of spelling /sh/
sure, sugar, ocean

Unusual ways of spelling /zh/
measure, pleasure, treasure

xi = /k sh/
anxious (*anx-ious*)
obnoxious (*ob-nox-ious*)
crucifixion (*cruci-fix-ion*)
complexion (*com-plex-ion*)

wh = /w/	wh = /h/
when where which why <i>whether (wheth-er)</i> (Please decide whether you will have ice cream or not.) <i>whistle (whis-tle)</i>	who whom whose whole whooping cough
"Wh" sounds more windy than "w".	
The question words when, where, which, why and who start with "wh".	

ph = /f/
graph <i>telephone (tel-e-phone)</i> <i>elephant (el-e-phant)</i> <i>photograph (pho-to-graph)</i>
These words have come from Greek.

ng
sing sang song sung <i>singing (sing-ing)</i>

th	th
thing thump three <i>thistle (this-tle)</i> <i>thermometer (ther-mom-e-ter)</i> youth	them these those that this with

gh = /g/	gh = /f/	part of another sound
ghost <i>dinghy (din-ghy)</i> (a small boat)	laugh cough rough	caught (a ball) <i>daughter (daugh-ter)</i> through straight
See pp 22, 31.	See p 14.	

English words have come from many different languages.
Some letters used to be pronounced in English for a long time after they first came from the other languages but are not pronounced now, e.g. <u>kn</u> ife, <u>ei</u> ght, <u>hymn</u> , ...
In French some letters are not usually pronounced, e.g. "s" and "t" on the ends of words.
In the early days of printing (from 1476) some letters were put in, even though they were not pronounced in English by that time, because the letter(s) was in the original language, e.g. <u>do</u> ub <u>t</u> because it came from the Latin, <i>dubitare</i> .
Nowadays it is best, wherever possible, to learn them as digraphs, two letters that make a single sound. For example “mb” in lamb. Sometimes it can be more than two letters, e.g. gue = /g/ on the end of a word.

Digraphs and Silent Letters

b (mb, bt) ...	30
c (sc) ...	30
g (gn) ...	30
e (+ ve, le, se, the, gue, que) ...	30
gh (part of other sounds) ...	31
h (+ gh, rh) ...	31
k (kn) ...	31
l (+ al, oul, ol) ...	31
n (mn) ...	31
p (ps, pn, pt) ...	32
s ...	32
t ...	32
u (bu, gu, gue, qu, que) ...	32
w (wr, sw) ...	32

mb = /m/	bt = /t/
bomb	debt
<i>bomber (bomb-er)</i>	doubt
climb	<i>subtle (sub-tle)</i>
<i>climber (climb-er)</i>	
lamb	
<i>plumber (plumb-er)</i>	

sc = /s/, c is usually followed by e, i or y
scene
<i>science (sci-ence)</i>
<i>scissors (scis-sors)</i>
scythe
miscellaneous (<i>mis-cel-la-ne-ous</i>)
But we do pronounce the “c” in:
<i>muscle (mus-cle)</i> <i>muscular (mus-cu-lar)</i>
<i>corpuscle (cor-pus-cle)</i> <i>corpuscular (cor-pus-cu-lar)</i>

gn = /n/
gnarled
gnaw
sign BUT we do pronounce the “g” in <i>signal (sig-nal)</i>
and <i>signature (sig-na-ture)</i>
reign (king or queen)
<i>campaign (cam-paign)</i>

Silent “e” – a different way of looking at things:

<p>silent “e” - vowel says its name late these like hope cube ... type</p> <p style="text-align: right;">See pp 5-8.</p>
<p>silent “e” - after “c” or “g” => /ss/ or /j/ sound fence <i>notice noticeable courage courageous</i> but <i>noticing</i> and <i>encouraging</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">See also p 22.</p>
<p>-ve = /v/ (silent “e” – English words cannot end in “v”.) love have move glove <i>above (a-bove) active (ac-tive)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Similarly with “-ue”, p8.</p>
<p>-le = /l/ (silent “e” – Every syllable must have a vowel.) <i>apple (ap-ple) table (ta-ble) muddle (mud-dle)</i> <i>battle (bat-tle) buckle (buck-le) icicle (i-ci-cle)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">See also “-le” page 13.</p>
<p>-se = /s/ or /z/ (silent “e” prevents confusion with plurals) nurse, horse, house, cheese ... e.g. “nurs” might look like a plural.</p> <p>Also clarifies meaning: tea + s ⇨ teas, different from “tease”, plea + s ⇨ pleas, different from “please”. See also p 25.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">-the</p> <p>The silent “e” usually makes the “th” voiced (feel your throat) breath/breathe, cloth/clothe</p>
<p>Words that end in “que” = /k/, “gue” = /g/ antique unique vague fatigue</p> <p style="text-align: right;">See p32.</p>
<p>silent “e” - no apparent reason ?!*#? are, were, <i>medicine, engine, opposite, come</i> ...</p>

silent gh - end of word though (see “ough”) through (see “ough”) plough (see “ough”)	silent gh - before t <i>daughter (daugh-ter)</i> weight <i>eighteen (eigh-teen)</i> light (see “igh”) straight bought (see “ough”)
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These are really part of other sounds – ough, augh, eigh, igh, aigh. See Vowel sounds of “ough”, “augh”=/or/, p 14.

silent h - beginning of word or syllable
hour <i>honest (hon-est)</i> vehicle (ve-hi-cle)

gh = /g/ ghost <i>ghastly (ghast-ly)</i> <i>dinghy (din-ghy)</i> (small boat)	rh = /r/ rhythm rhyme <i>rhubarb (rhu-barb)</i> <i>diarrhoea (di-ar-rhoe-a)</i> US diarrhea
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See hard and soft “g”, p 22.

See also “ch” = /k/ on page 26.

kn = /n/
knee knife knot know <i>knowledge (know-ledge)</i> <i>knuckle (knuck-le)</i>

silent l - usually this changes the vowel sound
talk walk chalk al = /or/ } See also calf half <i>almond (al-mond)</i> al = /ar/ } p 13a. could, would, should oul = /oo/ <i>salmon (salm-on)</i>
yolk folk ol = /O/ See also p5a.

mn = /m/
hymn (that you sing in church) damn (a swear word) ... BUT we do pronounce the “n” in <i>damnable (dam-na-ble)</i> and <i>damnation (dam-na-tion)</i> . <i>column (col-umn)</i> <i>autumn (au-tumn)</i> <i>condemn (con-demn)</i> “n” pronounced in <i>condemnation</i> <i>solemn (sol-emn)</i> “n” pronounced in <i>solemnity</i>

ps = /s/
psalm psychologist (psy-chol-o-gist)
pn = /n/
pneumonia (pneu-mo-ni-a) pneumatic (pneu-mat-ic)
pt = /t/
pterodactyl (pte-ro-dac-tyl) (a flying dinosaur) receipt (re-ceipt)

silent s – end of word
<i>debris</i> (deb-ris) or <i>debris</i> (de-bris) <i>precis</i> (pre-cis)
Words from French.
island, isle, aisle

silent t – after s (or st =/s/)
castle (ca-stle or cas-tle) listen (lis-ten) fasten (fas-ten)
silent t – end of word
<i>ballet</i> (bal-let) <i>depot</i> (dep-ot) <i>mortgage</i> (mort-gage) Old French: mort=dead, gage=pledge
Words from French.

bu = /b/	gu, gue = /g/
build buoy buy	guess guitar (gui-tar) catalogue (cat-a-logue) dialogue (di-a-logue) intrigue (in-trigue or in-trigue)
	tongue (/ng/, no /g/)
qu, que = /k/	
unique (u-nique) oblique (o-blique) grotesque (gro-tesque) quay (pronounced /kee/) (a wharf)	
Words that end in “que” have usually come from French. Words that end in “gue” have often come from French.	

wr = /r/
write (Write a letter.) wrap (Wrap a present.) wrong
sw = /s/
answer (an-swer) sword
See also “wh” = /h/ on page 28.