



VOWEL SOUNDS – Spelling Patterns for SHORT & LONG Vowels

VOWELS = a e i o u y

CONSONANTS = b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x y z

Spelling Patterns apply to **one-syllable words** or **STRESSED** syllables.

SYLLABLES AND STRESS RULES

If the word is 2-3 syllables:

90% of Nouns stress the **1st** syllable

75% of Verbs stress the **2nd** syllable

75% of Adjectives stress the **1st** syllable

SHORT VOWEL Spelling PATTERNS & Examples:

- 1) **CVC** man, ten, big, top, gum
(Consonant, Vowel, Consonant)
- 2) **VCC** back, deck, kiss, long, junk
(Vowel, Consonant, Consonant)
- 3) **VC** at, in, on, up
(Vowel, Consonant)

LONG VOWEL Spelling PATTERNS & Examples:

- 1) **VCV** Kate, scene, China, home, tuna
(Vowel, Consonant, Vowel)
- 2) **VV** day, meet, tie, boat, soon, blue
(Vowel, Vowel – usually the 1st vowel is **LONG** and the 2nd vowel is **SILENT**)
- 3) **CV** me, Hi, go, do
(Consonant, Vowel)

NOTE: the Pronunciation symbols & sounds used in my Handouts are based on current standard Canadian pronunciation. If speakers in your area say words differently, feel free to adjust my materials to reflect this.

When people ask me which country has the ‘best’ pronunciation, I always say, “Everyone does. Just speak the way the people around you speak.”



VOWELS: PHONETIC SYMBOLS & TEST WORDS:

NOTE: If you can say the **TEST** word *correctly*, you can use it to **Test** other words. Let your **mouth** teach your **ears**, and your **ears** teach your **mouth**!

	Phonetic Symbol	How *I* write this sound phonetically	TEST WORD	EXAMPLES
Short a	æ	æ	CAT	<u>l</u> ad, ba <u>d</u> , ca <u>t</u> , tra <u>p</u> , la <u>ugh</u> , pla <u>id</u>
Short e	ɛ	e	RED	be <u>d</u> , be <u>t</u> , dre <u>ss</u> , hea <u>d</u> , <u>s</u> ays, sa <u>i</u> d, fri <u>e</u> nd
Short i	ɪ	ih	HIS	si <u>t</u> , li <u>s</u> ten, i <u>s</u> , wi <u>ll</u> , i <u>f</u> , i <u>n</u>
Short i	ɪ PINK SCHWA	ih	HIS	fold <u>e</u> d, aid <u>e</u> d, need <u>e</u> d, wait <u>e</u> d, want <u>e</u> d, plant <u>e</u> d,
Short o	ɑ:	a	HOT	fa <u>t</u> her, ca <u>r</u> , a <u>r</u> m
Short o	ɒ	a	HOT	no <u>t</u> , wa <u>s</u> p, wa <u>t</u> er, wa <u>s</u> h, wa <u>t</u> ch, sa <u>w</u> , ja <u>w</u> , draw, la <u>w</u>
Short o	ɔ:	a	HOT	la <u>w</u> , cou <u>gh</u> , a <u>ll</u> , ha <u>lt</u> , ta <u>lk</u> , tho <u>ugh</u> t, Au <u>g</u> ust, Au <u>s</u> tralia, ca <u>u</u> se, ca <u>u</u> ght
Short u	ʌ	uh	FUN	ru <u>n</u> , wo <u>n</u> , o <u>n</u> e flo <u>o</u> d, blo <u>o</u> d, wa <u>s</u> , wha <u>t</u> , co <u>m</u> e, lo <u>v</u> e, the, mo <u>t</u> her, bro <u>t</u> her
au	aʊ	au	OUT	no <u>w</u> , all <u>o</u> w, crow <u>d</u> , <u>o</u> ut, ab <u>o</u> ut, ho <u>u</u> se, fo <u>u</u> nd
Long a	eɪ	eiy	DAY	da <u>t</u> e, da <u>y</u> , ra <u>i</u> se, we <u>i</u> ght, fa <u>m</u> ous, Cana <u>d</u> ian, invit <u>a</u> tion, pla <u>n</u> e, pla <u>i</u> n
Long e	i:	iy	ME	se <u>e</u> , mea <u>t</u> , fie <u>l</u> d, sc <u>e</u> ne, Cana <u>d</u> ian
Long e	i:	iy	ME	ci <u>t</u> y, happ <u>y</u>
Long i	aɪ	aiy	MY	ti <u>m</u> e, w <u>i</u> se, hi <u>gh</u> , pr <u>i</u> ce, e <u>y</u> e, I, fi <u>gh</u> t, b <u>y</u> , bu <u>y</u> , b <u>y</u> e, w <u>i</u> ld, Chi <u>n</u> a, pi <u>l</u> ot



VOWELS: PHONETIC SYMBOLS & TEST WORDS:

	Phonetic Symbol	How *I* write this sound phonetically	TEST WORD	EXAMPLES
Long o	oʊ	o	GO	ph <u>o</u> ne, h <u>o</u> me, m <u>o</u> st, gr <u>o</u> w, s <u>o</u> , s <u>e</u> w, n <u>o</u> se, <u>o</u> ld, g <u>o</u> ld, F <u>o</u> rd, <u>o</u> r
Long u	u:	u	DO	throu <u>gh</u> , sch <u>oo</u> l, t <u>u</u> ne, poll <u>u</u> tion, d <u>ua</u> l, fr <u>ui</u> t, l <u>oo</u> se, l <u>o</u> se, m <u>o</u> ve, d <u>ue</u> , d <u>o</u> , sh <u>o</u> e, st <u>e</u> w, tr <u>u</u> e, <u>tw</u> o, <u>to</u> o, t <u>o</u>
		u		th <u>re</u> w, n <u>e</u> w, d <u>e</u> w, n <u>e</u> ws
ʊ	ʊ	ʊ	WOOD	put, pu <u>sh</u> , pu <u>ll</u> , cu <u>sh</u> ion
		ʊ	WOOD	bo <u>o</u> k, h <u>oo</u> d, lo <u>o</u> k, fo <u>o</u> t, g <u>oo</u> d, <u>wo</u> ol
iu	iu:	iu	FEW	cu <u>t</u> e, compu <u>t</u> er, pu <u>r</u> e, fu <u>n</u> eral, regu <u>l</u> ar, u <u>s</u> e, u <u>s</u> eful
oi	ɔɪ	oi	BOY	bo <u>y</u> , to <u>y</u> , no <u>is</u> e, cho <u>ic</u> e, la <u>w</u> yer
ər	ər	ər	HER	<i>Vowel(s) + r:</i> hu <u>r</u> t, he <u>r</u> d, he <u>ar</u> d, <u>ea</u> rth, bi <u>r</u> d <u>w</u> ere
ər	ər	ər	HER	<i>wor(+consonant):</i> <u>w</u> or <u>r</u> y, <u>w</u> or <u>l</u> d, <u>w</u> or <u>d</u> , <u>w</u> or <u>s</u> e
ər	ər	ər	HER	<i>Endings with the ər sound:</i> winner, calend <u>ar</u> , mot <u>or</u> , hum <u>our</u> , col <u>our</u>
ə	ə SCHWA (unstressed syllables)	ə	AWAY	<u>a</u> bout, cin <u>e</u> ma, Can <u>a</u> da, ba <u>n</u> ana



VOWEL SOUNDS: SENTENCES TO REMEMBER

SHORT a – CAT:

Ask Aunt Annie for an apple and abanana.



SHORT e – RED:

Mary sent me a letter where she said that she felt better.



SHORT i – HIS:

If you wish to kiss a fish upon the lips, it will tickle a little!



SHORT o – HOT:

John saw a dog walk along the top of the wall.



SHORT u – FUN:

One glove is under my son; the other one is upstairs.

LONG a – DAY:

Kate hated to play games on the plane yesterday.



LONG e – ME:

Miko leaves three keys beneath the seat by the tree.



LONG i – MY:

It's my dime and time is flying.



LONG o – GO:

Jordan phoned a florist on the corner for roses.



LONG u – DO:

Do Julie and Sue have new blue shoes for school?



WOOD:

Could you please put the good-looking cushion on the wooden bookshelf?



au – OUT:

Our house is loud when clowns are around.



oi – BOY:

For joy, boys love noisy toys more than lawyers.



er – HER:

The doctor's shirt and skirt were turned purple by her daughter.



iu – FEW:

Computers are usually used to calculate populations.



ə – SCHWA – AWAY:

Were you able to present the presentation again?

