

## Request for Reconsideration after Final Action

The table below presents the data as entered.

Input Field	Entered
<b>SERIAL NUMBER</b>	79083340
<b>LAW OFFICE ASSIGNED</b>	LAW OFFICE 116
<b>MARK SECTION (no change)</b>	
<b>ARGUMENT(S)</b>	
<p>This request for reconsideration is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed October 13, 2011. A Notice of Appeal is concurrently submitted. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.</p>	
<p><b>REMARKS:</b></p>	
<p>I. The Mark is Not Descriptive</p>	
<p>The Examining Attorney has refused registration under Section 2(e)(1) on the alleged basis that “the applicant for mark merely describes a feature or characteristic of applicant’s goods” (Office Action, page 2). In particular, the Examining Attorney asserts that “applicant’s proposed mark, APPLIQUATOR, is a novel spelling of the word ‘APPLICATOR,’” and that the word “applicator” is descriptive as applied to certain of Applicant’s goods (Office Action, page 2). The Examining Attorney further asserts that “[a] novel spelling or an intentional misspelling <i>that is the phonetic equivalent of a merely descriptive word or term</i> is also merely descriptive if purchasers would perceive the different spelling as the equivalent of the descriptive word or term” (Office Action, page, 3) (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully disagrees with each of the Examining Attorney’s contentions, and incorporates by reference the arguments raised in its previous responses.</p>	
<p>First, the term APPLIQUATOR is a coined term that, to the best of Applicant’s knowledge, is not recognized in any known language, and has no recognized meaning outside of Applicant’s own usage. As such, the term APPLIQUATOR is not a novel spelling or an intentional misspelling of the word APPLICATOR</p>	
<p>Second, the Examining Attorney argues that the letters “QU” may be pronounced like a “K,” and because of that, the term APPLIQUATOR will be pronounced the same way as the word APPLICATOR, and “purchasers would perceive the proposed mark as the equivalent of ‘APPLICATOR’” (Office Action, page</p>	

3). As evidence, the Examining Attorney offers Internet website evidence from (1) [http://www.classzone.com/books/language\\_of\\_lit\\_gr08/spelling/spell\\_student\\_22.cfm](http://www.classzone.com/books/language_of_lit_gr08/spelling/spell_student_22.cfm), (2) <http://www.say-in-english.com/BasicEnglish7.html>, and (3) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hard\\_and\\_soft\\_C](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hard_and_soft_C). However, while the evidence offered by the Examining Attorney demonstrates that, in some (but not all) circumstances, the letters QUE can be pronounced like a K, it also demonstrates that in the English language, the letters QUA are invariably pronounced like a KW, rather than like a K. For example, the evidence from [www.classzone.com](http://www.classzone.com) lists the words UNIQUE, CLIQUE, PLAQUE, MASQUERADE, CONQUER, and LACQUER as examples of QU pronounced like a K, but each of these words uses the letter combination QUE to produce the K sound. In contrast, each of the listed words using the QUA letter combination used in APPLIQUATOR (in addition to all of the other listed words using QUE and QUI), namely, ACQUAINTED, ADEQUATELY, QUAIN and QUARANTINE, are pronounced with a KW sound (the lesson also notes that “[i]n most words, qu is pronounced /kw/”). Similarly, in the evidence from [www.say-it-in-english.com](http://www.say-it-in-english.com), BISQUE, TOQUE, BRIQUETTE, and CROQUET are listed as examples of QU pronounced as a K, each of which uses the QU letter combination. The sole example provided by the Examining Attorney of a word using the QUA letter combination from [www.say-it-in-english.com](http://www.say-it-in-english.com) is QUAKE, which is pronounced with a KW sound. The evidence from [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org) provides no examples of words in which the letter combination QUA is pronounced K rather than KW. Applicant thus respectfully submits that the evidence offered by the Examining Attorney not only fails to demonstrate that the QUA letter combination can be pronounced like K, but in fact uniformly establishes that QUA is properly pronounced as KW.

As additional evidence, Applicant submits herewith Internet website evidence from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English\\_orthography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_orthography) demonstrating that the QUA letter combination is properly pronounced like a KW under English language pronunciation rules (see page 12). While the proffered evidence uses the examples QUANTITY, QUAD, QUANGO, QUARTER, and QUART, the English language is replete with other examples of words using the QUA letter combination pronounced as KW, such as ANTIQUATE, AQUARIUM, AQUATIC, EQUAL, EQUATION, EQUATOR, LIQUATION, LOQUACIOUS, QUAALUDE, QUACK, QUAFF, QUAGMIRE, QUAIL, QUAKE, QUALIFY, QUALM, QUANDARY, QUARK, QUARREL, QUARRY, QUARTZ, QUASAR, QUASH, QUASI, QUATERNARY, QUATRIN, QUAVING, SQUABBLE, SQUAD, SQUALL, SQUALOR, SQUANDER, SQUARE, SQUASH, SQUATTER, and SQUAWK, to name a few. Because the QUA letter combination is properly pronounced as KW, the proper English pronunciation of the coined term APPLIQUATOR is APPLIKWATOR, rather than APPLICATOR. As such, the term APPLIQUATOR is not the phonetic equivalent of the word APPLICATOR, would not be perceived by purchasers as the equivalent of the word APPLICATOR, and is not a novel spelling or an intentional misspelling of the word APPLICATOR, since two words have distinct and dissimilar pronunciations. Thus, even if the word APPLICATOR was deemed to be descriptive or generic as applied to Applicant’s goods (which Applicant does not believe to be the case), the coined term APPLIQUATOR is not, and cannot, be the equivalent, phonetic or otherwise, of the word APPLICATOR. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the term APPLIQUATOR does not describe any feature or characteristic of Applicant’s goods, is not descriptive or generic as applied to the

goods, and is not a novel spelling or an intentional misspelling of the word APPLICATOR. Applicant thus respectfully requests that the refusal be withdrawn.

## II. The Descriptiveness Refusal was Improperly Raised

The instant application was filed as a request for extension of protection based on International Registration No. 1040878. The examination of such requests for extension of protection is governed by Trademark Act Section 68(c) (15 U.S.C. § 1141h), which provides, in pertinent part:

### (c) Notice to International Bureau.—

(1) Within 18 months after the date on which the International Bureau transmits to the Patent and Trademark Office a notification of a request for extension of protection, the Director shall transmit the International Bureau any of the following that applies to such request:

(A) A notification of refusal based on an examination of the request for extension of protection.

(B) A notification of refusal based on the filing of an opposition to the request.

(C) A notification of the possibility that an opposition to the request may be filed after the end of that 18-month period.

(2) If the Director has sent a notification of the possibility of opposition under paragraph (1)(C), the Director shall, if applicable, transmit to the International Bureau a notification of refusal on the basis of the opposition, together with a statement of all the grounds for the opposition, within 7 months after the beginning of the opposition period or within 1 month after the end of the opposition period, whichever is earlier.

(3) If a notification of refusal of a request for extension of protection is transmitted under paragraph (1) or (2), no grounds for refusal of such request other than those set forth in such notification may be transmitted to the International Bureau by the Director after the expiration of the time periods set forth in paragraph (1) or (2), as the case may be.

(4) If a notification specified in paragraph (1) or (2) is not sent to the International Bureau within the time period set forth in such paragraph, with respect to a request for extension of protection, the request for extension of protection shall not be refused and the Director shall issue a certificate of extension of protection pursuant to the request.

Under Section 68(c)(1), the Trademark Office has eighteen months from the date of transmission of the request for extension of protection to notify the International Bureau of a refusal based on an examination of the request for extension of protection. Under Section 68(c)(3), if a notification of a refusal is sent to the International Bureau, no grounds for refusal other than those set forth in such notification may be transmitted to the International Bureau by the Director after the expiration of the eighteen month time period. Under Section 68(c)(4), if a notification of a refusal is not sent to the International Bureau within the eighteen month time period, then “the request for extension of protection shall not be refused and the Director shall issue a

certificate of extension of protection pursuant to the request.” Further guidance is provided by TMEP § 1904.03(a), which states as follows:

If upon re-examination the examining attorney determines a new ground of refusal exists, a second Office action raising this new ground may be issued only if time remains in the 18-month period. In such a case, the examining attorney must contact the MPU upon issuance of the Office action, so that notification of the new ground of refusal can be sent to the IB.

As explained below, Applicant respectfully submits that the Trademark Office has failed to comply with Section 68(c) and TMEP § 1904.03(a), and as such, the refusal under Section 2(e)(1) must be withdrawn.

The instant application was filed as a request for extension of protection based on International Registration No. 1040878 on July 1, 2010. According to Section 68(c) and the TARR database, the date of automatic protection based on the expiration of the eighteen month period was January 1, 2012. A non-final first Office Action was sent to the International Bureau on July 14, 2010, which raised indefiniteness issues with the identification of goods, but did not raise any grounds for refusal under Section 2(e)(1). Following Applicant’s response of October 29, 2010, the application was approved for publication on November 17, 2010. The application was then withdrawn from publication on December 20, 2010, and a second, non-final Office Action was mailed on March 21, 2011. The refusal under Section 2(e)(1) was raised for the first time in the second Office Action. However, the Trademark Office failed to notify the International Bureau of the second Office Action, which was sent directly to Applicant’s counsel. Applicant responded on September 21, 2011, and the third, final Office Action was mailed to Applicant’s counsel on October 13, 2011. As with the second Office Action, the Trademark Office failed to notify the International Bureau of the third Office Action, which made final the refusal under Section 2(e)(1). Because of this, the International Bureau was never notified of the grounds of refusal under Section 2(e)(1) prior to the January 1, 2012 date of automatic protection.

Under Section 68(c) and TMEP § 1904.03(a), the Trademark Office must notify the International Bureau of any grounds for refusal of a request for extension of protection within eighteen months of the request, and if such a notification is sent to the International Bureau, no grounds for refusal other than those set forth in such notification may be transmitted to the International Bureau after the expiration of the eighteen month time period. Since the Trademark Office sent a notification of refusal to the International Bureau (the first Office Action) that did not raise the grounds of refusal under Section 2(e)(1), and did not send any notification of refusal prior to January 1, 2012 that did raise the grounds of refusal under Section 2(e)(1) (the second and third Office Actions), the un-notified grounds of refusal under Section 2(e)(1) cannot properly be raised by the Trademark Office as a basis for refusal of a request for extension of protection under Section 68(c) and TMEP § 1904.03(a). Moreover, since the January 1, 2012 date of automatic protection has passed, the Trademark Office has no recourse other than to withdraw the refusal under Section 2(e)(1) and allow the application to proceed to the publication stage. Indeed, according to the official record of International Registration No. 1040878 at the World Intellectual Property Organization website (attached herewith), the examination period has been completed in the United States, and the International Bureau has no awareness or recognition of the

pending final Office Action or the untimely-raised grounds of refusal under Section 2(e)(1). In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the refusal under Section 2(e)(1) was improperly raised, in contravention of Section 68(c) and TMEP § 1904.03(a), and requests that the refusal be withdrawn.

### III. Conclusion

All grounds of refusal having been addressed and all outstanding requirements having been satisfied, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for registration, and requests that the mark be approved for publication at the earliest opportunity.

## EVIDENCE SECTION

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<b>NEW ATTORNEY SECTION</b>	
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<b>FIRM NAME</b>	Casimir Jones, S.C.
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<b>AUTHORIZED EMAIL COMMUNICATION</b>	Yes
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<b>INDIVIDUAL ATTORNEY DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER</b>	GLAWE-32477
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<b>CITY</b>	Middleton
<b>STATE</b>	Wisconsin
<b>ZIP/POSTAL CODE</b>	53562
<b>COUNTRY</b>	United States
<b>PHONE</b>	608.662.1277
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<b>EMAIL</b>	dapayne@casimirjones.com;docketing@casimirjones.com
<b>AUTHORIZED EMAIL COMMUNICATION</b>	Yes
<b>SIGNATURE SECTION</b>	
<b>RESPONSE SIGNATURE</b>	/dap/
<b>SIGNATORY'S NAME</b>	David A. Payne
<b>SIGNATORY'S POSITION</b>	Attorney of record, Wisconsin bar member
<b>SIGNATORY'S PHONE NUMBER</b>	608.662.1277
<b>DATE SIGNED</b>	04/05/2012

<b>AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY</b>	YES
<b>CONCURRENT APPEAL NOTICE FILED</b>	YES
<b>FILING INFORMATION SECTION</b>	
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PTO Form 1930 (Rev 9/2007)  
OMB No. 0651-0050 (Exp. 4/30/2009)

**Request for Reconsideration after Final Action  
To the Commissioner for Trademarks:**

Application serial no. **79083340** has been amended as follows:

**ARGUMENT(S)**

**In response to the substantive refusal(s), please note the following:**

This request for reconsideration is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed October 13, 2011. A Notice of Appeal is concurrently submitted. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

**REMARKS:**

I. The Mark is Not Descriptive

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descriptive word or term” (Office Action, page, 3) (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully disagrees with each of the Examining Attorney’s contentions, and incorporates by reference the arguments raised in its previous responses.

First, the term APPLIQUATOR is a coined term that, to the best of Applicant’s knowledge, is not recognized in any known language, and has no recognized meaning outside of Applicant’s own usage. As such, the term APPLIQUATOR is not a novel spelling or an intentional misspelling of the word APPLICATOR

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QUALIFY, QUALMS, QUANDARY, QUARK, QUARREL, QUARRY, QUARTZ, QUASAR, QUASH, QUASI, QUATERNARY, QUATRIN, QUAVING, SQUABBLE, SQUAD, SQUALL, SQUALOR, SQUANDER, SQUARE, SQUASH, SQUATTER, and SQUAWK, to name a few. Because the QUA letter combination is properly pronounced as KW, the proper English pronunciation of the coined term APPLIQUATOR is APPLIKWATOR, rather than APPLICATOR. As such, the term APPLIQUATOR is not the phonetic equivalent of the word APPLICATOR, would not be perceived by purchasers as the equivalent of the word APPLICATOR, and is not a novel spelling or an intentional misspelling of the word APPLICATOR, since the two words have distinct and dissimilar pronunciations. Thus, even if the word APPLICATOR was deemed to be descriptive or generic as applied to Applicant's goods (which Applicant does not believe to be the case), the coined term APPLIQUATOR is not, and cannot, be the equivalent, phonetic or otherwise, of the word APPLICATOR. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the term APPLIQUATOR does not describe any feature or characteristic of Applicant's goods, is not descriptive or generic as applied to the goods, and is not a novel spelling or an intentional misspelling of the word APPLICATOR. Applicant thus respectfully requests that the refusal be withdrawn.

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(A) A notification of refusal based on an examination of the request for extension of protection.

(B) A notification of refusal based on the filing of an opposition to the request.

(C) A notification of the possibility that an opposition to the request may be filed after the end of that 18-month period.

(2) If the Director has sent a notification of the possibility of opposition under paragraph (1)(C), the Director shall, if applicable, transmit to the International Bureau a notification of refusal on the basis of the opposition, together with a statement of all the grounds for the opposition, within 7 months after the beginning of the opposition period or within 1 month after the end of the opposition period, whichever is earlier.

(3) If a notification of refusal of a request for extension of protection is transmitted under paragraph (1) or (2), no grounds for refusal of such request other than those set forth in such notification may be transmitted to the International Bureau by the Director after the expiration of

the time periods set forth in paragraph (1) or (2), as the case may be.

(4) If a notification specified in paragraph (1) or (2) is not sent to the International Bureau within the time period set forth in such paragraph, with respect to a request for extension of protection, the request for extension of protection shall not be refused and the Director shall issue a certificate of extension of protection pursuant to the request.

Under Section 68(c)(1), the Trademark Office has eighteen months from the date of transmission of the request for extension of protection to notify the International Bureau of a refusal based on an examination of the request for extension of protection. Under Section 68(c)(3), if a notification of a refusal is sent to the International Bureau, no grounds for refusal other than those set forth in such notification may be transmitted to the International Bureau by the Director after the expiration of the eighteen month time period. Under Section 68(c)(4), if a notification of a refusal is not sent to the International Bureau within the eighteen month time period, then “the request for extension of protection shall not be refused and the Director shall issue a certificate of extension of protection pursuant to the request.” Further guidance is provided by TMEP § 1904.03(a), which states as follows:

If upon re-examination the examining attorney determines a new ground of refusal exists, a second Office action raising this new ground may be issued only if time remains in the 18-month period. In such a case, the examining attorney must contact the MPU upon issuance of the Office action, so that a notification of the new ground of refusal can be sent to the IB.

As explained below, Applicant respectfully submits that the Trademark Office has failed to comply with Section 68(c) and TMEP § 1904.03(a), and as such, the refusal under Section 2(e)(1) must be withdrawn.

The instant application was filed as a request for extension of protection based on International Registration No. 1040878 on July 1, 2010. According to Section 68(c) and the TARR database, the date of automatic protection based on the expiration of the eighteen month period was January 1, 2012. A non-final first Office Action was sent to the International Bureau on July 14, 2010, which raised indefiniteness issues with the identification of goods, but did not raise any grounds for refusal under Section 2(e)(1). Following Applicant’s response of October 29, 2010, the application was approved for publication on November 17, 2010. The application was then withdrawn from publication on December 20, 2010, and a second, non-final Office Action was mailed on March 21, 2011. The refusal under Section 2(e)(1) was raised for the first time in the second Office Action. However, the Trademark Office failed to notify the International Bureau of the second Office Action, which was sent directly to Applicant’s counsel. Applicant responded on September 21, 2011, and the third, final Office Action was mailed to Applicant’s counsel on October 13, 2011. As with the second Office Action, the Trademark Office failed to notify the International Bureau of the third Office Action, which made final the refusal under Section 2(e)(1). Because of this, the International Bureau was never notified of the grounds of refusal under Section 2(e)(1) prior to the January 1, 2012 date of automatic protection.

Under Section 68(c) and TMEP § 1904.03(a), the Trademark Office must notify the International Bureau

of any grounds for refusal of a request for extension of protection within eighteen months of the request, and if such a notification is sent to the International Bureau, no grounds for refusal other than those set forth in such notification may be transmitted to the International Bureau after the expiration of the eighteen month time period. Since the Trademark Office sent a notification of refusal to the International Bureau (the first Office Action) that did not raise the grounds of refusal under Section 2(e)(1), and did not send any notification of refusal prior to January 1, 2012 that did raise the grounds of refusal under Section 2(e)(1) (the second and third Office Actions), the un-notified grounds of refusal under Section 2(e)(1) cannot properly be raised by the Trademark Office as a basis for refusal of a request for extension of protection under Section 68(c) and TMEP § 1904.03(a). Moreover, since the January 1, 2012 date of automatic protection has passed, the Trademark Office has no recourse other than to withdraw the refusal under Section 2(e)(1) and allow the application to proceed to the publication stage. Indeed, according to the official record of International Registration No. 1040878 at the World Intellectual Property Organization website (attached herewith), the examination period has been completed in the United States, and the International Bureau has no awareness or recognition of the pending final Office Action or the untimely-raised grounds of refusal under Section 2(e)(1). In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the refusal under Section 2(e)(1) was improperly raised, in contravention of Section 68(c) and TMEP § 1904.03(a), and requests that the refusal be withdrawn.

### III. Conclusion

All grounds of refusal having been addressed and all outstanding requirements having been satisfied, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for registration, and requests that the mark be approved for publication at the earliest opportunity.

### **EVIDENCE**

Evidence in the nature of Internet website evidence from (1) [http://www.classzone.com/books/language\\_of\\_lit\\_gr08/spelling/spell\\_student\\_22.cfm](http://www.classzone.com/books/language_of_lit_gr08/spelling/spell_student_22.cfm); (2) <http://www.say-it-in-english.com/BasicEnglish7.html>; (3) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hard\\_and\\_soft\\_C](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hard_and_soft_C); (4) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English\\_orthography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_orthography); and (5) International Registration No. 1040878 at the World Intellectual Property Organization website has been attached.

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#### **ATTORNEY ADDRESS**

Applicant proposes to amend the following:

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The attorney docket/reference number is GLAWE-32477.

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The attorney docket/reference number is GLAWE-32477.

**SIGNATURE(S)**

**Request for Reconsideration Signature**

Signature: /dap/ Date: 04/05/2012

Signatory's Name: David A. Payne

Signatory's Position: Attorney of record, Wisconsin bar member

Signatory's Phone Number: 608.662.1277

The signatory has confirmed that he/she is an attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a U.S. state, which includes the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other federal territories and possessions; and he/she is currently the applicant's attorney or an associate thereof; and to the best of his/her knowledge, if prior to his/her appointment another U.S. attorney or a Canadian attorney/agent not currently associated with his/her company/firm previously represented the applicant in this matter: (1) the applicant has filed or is concurrently filing a signed revocation of or substitute power of attorney with the USPTO; (2) the USPTO has granted the request of the prior representative to withdraw; (3) the applicant has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her in this matter; or (4) the applicant's appointed U.S. attorney or Canadian attorney/agent has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her as an associate attorney in this matter.

The applicant is filing a Notice of Appeal in conjunction with this Request for Reconsideration.

Mailing Address: David A. Payne, Esq.

Casimir Jones, S.C.

2275 Deming Way, Suite 310

Middleton, Wisconsin 53562

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 22 The letters **qu**

---

un <u>qu</u> e	ac <u>qu</u> ire	<u>qu</u> izzical
cli <u>qu</u> e	ac <u>qu</u> ainted	<u>qu</u> iver
pl <u>qu</u> e	ade <u>qu</u> ately	<u>qu</u> estionnaire
	collo <u>qu</u> ial	<u>qu</u> arantine
mas <u>qu</u> erade	in <u>qu</u> isitive	<u>qu</u> ench
con <u>qu</u> er	ban <u>qu</u> et	<u>qu</u> aint
lac <u>qu</u> er	se <u>qu</u> el	<u>qu</u> intuplet

1. Look at the underlined letters in each word. What letter always follows the letter **q**? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Say the first three words aloud. What two letters make the single sound of /**k**/? \_\_\_\_\_ What silent letter follows these letters? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In the next three words in the first column, what two letters make the /**k**/ sound? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In the remaining words on the spelling list, what two letters make the /**kw**/ sound? \_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson Generalization

The letter **q** is always followed by the letter **u** in the English language. In some words, **qu** is pronounced /**k**/. In most words, **qu** is pronounced /**kw**/.

When **qu** is pronounced /**k**/, it can appear in the middle of a word or at the end of a word: conquer, plaque.

When **qu** is pronounced like /**kw**/, it can appear in the middle of a word or at the beginning of a word: equator, quarrel.

The spelling is always **que** at the end of a word.

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**Lesson 7: Pronouncing the English Letters**



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**Vowels:** Vowels are letters that are pronounced by forcing air over your vocal cords through your mouth. It is the shape of your mouth that decides which vowel sound comes out. There are many tape or video cassette lessons available from schools, libraries and stores which will help you with your pronunciation. You can also learn a lot by listening to the radio and watching television and films.

Letter	Sounds of the letter	Alternate Spellings	Examples
A a	The "long" sound of this letter is the same as the name of the letter.	a, a+consonant+e, ea, ei, eigh, aigh, ai, ay, ere	able, late, great, heir, weigh, straight, rain, play, stray, plate
A a	The "short" sound of this letter is often found in 3-letter and 4-letter words.	a, augh	ad, bad, cat, dab, fact, <u>attack</u> , hat, lack, strap, rap, sad, tap, yak, laugh, draught
A a	The "soft" sound of this letter is like the sound you make when a child is hurt - Aw.	a, aw, augh, ough, o	father, awful, lawn, taught, bought, thought, bother
E e	The "long" sound of this letter is the same as the name of the letter.	e, e+consonant+e, ee, ea, ie, ei, y	be, here, cede, meet, bean, thief, receipt, carry, <u>steady</u>
E e	The "short" sound of this letter is often found in short words.	e, ea, ai	bet, chef, dead, fed, head, get, led, met, net, red, pez, said, wet, yet
I i	The "long" sound of this letter sounds like the name of the letter.	i, y, igh, i+consonant+e, ai	I, my, sigh, ride, aisle, file, cry,
I i	The "short" sound of this letter is often found in short words.	i, u	bit, city, click, lid, spin, tin, rip, omit, trip, busy
O o	The "long" sound of this letter sounds like the name of the letter.	o, oa, ough, o+consonant+e, ow,	no, go, boat, coal, though, dough, lone, pole, show, blow
O o	The "short" sound of this letter is often found in short words. It is very close to the "soft" A sound.	o, ough	body, cot, clod, flop, shot, mop, not, plot, dog, pond, gone
U u	The "long" sound of this letter sounds like the last part of the name of the letter.	u, oo, ou, ough, ew, ue, o, u+consonant+e, oe	gnu, do, boot, through, flew, glue, rude, shoe, uvula, roof, threw, flue, tune
U u	The "short" sound of this letter is often found in short words.	u, oo	but, cut, fun, gun, stud, bum, blood, flood, rump, fuzz

**Diphthongs:** No, this is not a type of dinosaur. When two vowel sounds blend together in a word, it is called a diphthong. Sometimes the sound is spelled with two letters and other times one letter does the job. In fact, many of the Long Vowel sounds in English are called Diphthongs by language experts - A is really a blending of the A and E sounds, I is really a blending of the Soft A and E sounds, etc. To make matters more simple, however, in these lessons, we will treat the Long Vowel sounds as pure sounds. That leaves us with a few very definite Blended Vowel sounds, or Diphthongs.

Description	Possible spellings	Examples
-------------	--------------------	----------

The "soft" A or the "short" O followed by a "long" U sound.	ou, ow, ough	loud, sprout, cow, plow, bough, clown, now, how, proud, crowd, allowed
The "long" E sound followed by a "long" U sound.	ew, eu,	few, feud, spew, fuel
The Long A sound sliding into the Long E sound.	ay, ai, a=consonant=silent E, ea	day, say, mate, great, parade, raid, paid

**Consonants** are letters that are pronounced by forcing air through, over or between the various parts of your mouth: palate, teeth, tongue, lips. Sometimes the sound is made by stopping the flow of air and then releasing it. Again, examples of the correct pronunciation of these letters can be found elsewhere. This lessons will deal with the relationship between spelling and pronunciation.

Consonant	How to pronounce it	Examples
B b	Press both lips together and with your vocal cords vibrating, open your lips suddenly.	baby, boy, bed, bird, table, rabbit, ribbon, black, crab, stable
C c	"Soft" C is a hissing sound with the tip of your tongue pushed against the back of your bottom teeth and the air forced between your tongue and the roof of your mouth.	city, cement, ceiling, cell, cyclops, certain, circle, facet, mice
C c	"Hard" C, like the letter "K", is made by pressing the back of your tongue against top of your throat opening and releasing it suddenly with a puff of air.	can, corn, curl, cable, copper, cut, act, bacon, cry, close, cramp
D d	Push the tip of your tongue against the roof of your mouth just behind your front teeth, vibrate your vocal cords and release your tongue.	dog, day, dirty, duty, drum, drip, bad, paddle, lid, spread, radar
F f	Press your upper front teeth against your bottom lip. Force air through the opening, then release your teeth from your lip.	father, fence, find, forty, funny, flake, fry, wafer, golfer, lift, safe, stiff, muff
G g	To make the "hard" G sound, close the opening at the back of your throat (back of tongue against rear roof of mouth), vibrate your vocal cords and release the pressure of your tongue.	game, girl, gone, guppy, bag, mug, sugar, bigger, gravy, glad, twig
G g	To make the "soft" G sound, like the letter "J", press the front third of your tongue against your upper front teeth and gums, vibrate your vocal cords and release your tongue.	giant, gentle, gem, germ, gigantic, widget, suggest, gesture
H h	The letter H is pronounced with your mouth relaxed, your jaw slightly open, and with a puff of air being forced from your throat.	hair, heavy, hill, home, hurt, behave, behind, inhale, rehearse
J j	To make the sound of the letter J, like the soft G, press the front third of your tongue against your top front teeth and gums, vibrate your vocal cords and release your tongue.	jail, jet, jiffy, jolly, jump, inject, injure, reject, misjudge
K k	To pronounce the K sound, press the back of your tongue against the rear roof of your mouth, then release it with a puff of air.	kale, kettle, kick, koala, basket, brisket, bucket, pack, stick, luck (note: the letters C and K often work together in the middle or at the end of words to make a single K sound.)
L l	To pronounce L, put the tip of your tongue against the ridge above your top front teeth, vibrate your vocal cords, then quickly release your tongue.	labor, lettuce, lip, love, luck, pilot, pillow, pullet, still, pail, bull, bowl
M m	To pronounce M, press your lips together, vibrate your vocal cords, then open your lips without a puff of air.	man, mend, milk, money, mug, woman, camera, simple, am, seem, come
N n	To pronounce N, put the tip of your tongue against the gums behind your top front teeth, raise the center of your tongue, vibrate your vocal cords, and release your tongue without a puff of air.	name, net, nickel, not, number, many, pint, sentence, run, pin, man
P p	To pronounce P, put your lips together and release them with a puff of air, without your vocal cords vibrating.	pan, pet, pick, pour, punt, rapid, tepid, hoping, strap, step, drop, dump
Q q	Q is always followed by U in English. QU is usually pronounced like KU (with a long U) with the U being held a very short time.	quake, question, quick, quote, inquest, require, liquid, sequel
Q q	Sometimes, QU is pronounced like K, usually in the middle or at the end of words.	bisque, toque, briquette, croquet

R r	To pronounce R, open your mouth slightly, raise the middle and back of your tongue toward the roof of your mouth without touching it, and vibrate your vocal cords.	rain, rent, ripe, rot, run, siren, syrup, sorrow, cereal, far, tear, north, year, fur
S s	To pronounce S, put the tip of your tongue behind your bottom front teeth, raise the rest of your tongue almost to the roof of your mouth, and let air hiss through the narrow opening.	sand, set, sick, some, such, basket, fiscal, posture, mustard, pass, miss, rest, yes
S s	At times, S is pronounced like the letter Z, with your mouth in the same position, but now with your vocal cords vibrating.	was, wisdom, trees, toes, bores, cows, cleans, tears, pours, claws
T t	To pronounce T, put the tip of your tongue behind your top front teeth and release it with a little puff of air.	tape, ten, time, top, tune, water, center, mister, poster, custard, sat, wet, fit, not, cut
V v	To pronounce V, place your top front teeth against your bottom lip (as with F), but then without releasing air, vibrate your vocal cords and release your teeth from your lip.	vase, very, vital, Volvo, waver, never, river, oven, lover, wave, leave, dive, favor
W w	To pronounce W, purse (round) your lips as if you are going to pronounce Long U. Vibrate your vocal cords for a very short U sound, then open your lips to pronounce the next sound in the word.	want, west, winter, wove, wool, beware, unwind, lower, tower
X x	X is usually pronounced like a K and S together except for the few words that begin with X, in which case X is pronounced like Z.	fax, text, mix, box, deluxe, relax, fixer, xylophone, xenon, xylene
Y y	Y is more like a vowel than a consonant. You pronounce it by forming your mouth to say a Long E sound, vibrate your vocal cords, then quickly go on to pronounce the next vowel sound in the word.	yard, yam, yet, year, young, yip, player, lawyer
Z z	To pronounce Z, put the tip of your tongue behind your bottom front teeth and raise the rest of your tongue until it almost touches the roof of your mouth. Then vibrate your vocal cords and let air escape through the narrow opening.	zap, zero, zing, zone, zoo, maze, doze, size, lazy, buzz, faze
CH	To pronounce CH, press the whole width of your tongue against the roof of your mouth behind your top front teeth, then release your tongue just enough to let a wide hiss of air come out.	chair, chess, chin, chore, chum, teacher, church, winch, such (Note: many words will use TCH to stand for the CH sound.) watch, fetch, witch, pitcher
SH	To pronounce the SH sound, place the whole width of your tongue close to the roof of your mouth behind your top front teeth, but without touching the roof, then let air slowly escape through the opening.	ash, mesh, fish, wash, posh, bush, masher, usher, shape, shin, shop, shut
TH (voiced)	To pronounce the Voiced TH, put the tip of your tongue between your top and bottom front teeth and vibrate your vocal cords, then pull your tongue back to pronounce the rest of the word.	than, then, this, there, that, either, weather, other, bather, smooth, clothe, scythe
TH (unvoiced)	To pronounce the Unvoiced TH, put the tip of your tongue between your top and bottom front teeth and let air escape around your tongue, without your vocal cords vibrating.	thank, thin, think, thought, thump, therapy, bath, with, moth, path, youth

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# Hard and soft C

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In the Latin-based orthographies of many European languages (including English), a distinction between **hard and soft ⟨c⟩** occurs in which ⟨c⟩ represents two distinct phonemes. The sound of a hard ⟨c⟩ (which often precedes the non-front vowels ⟨a⟩, ⟨o⟩ and ⟨u⟩) is always [k] (as in *car*) while the sound of a soft ⟨c⟩ (typically before ⟨e⟩, ⟨i⟩ and ⟨y⟩), depending on language, may be a fricative or affricate. In English, the sound of soft ⟨c⟩ is /s/ as in *cent*).

## Contents

- 1 History
- 2 English
  - 2.1 General overview
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## History

This alternation has its origins in a historical palatalization of /k/ which took place in Late Latin, and led to a change in the pronunciation of the sound [k] before the front vowels [e] and [i].<sup>[1][2]</sup> Later, other languages not descended from Latin, such as English, inherited this feature as an orthographic convention.

## English

### General overview

In English orthography, the pronunciation of hard ⟨c⟩ is /k/ and of soft ⟨c⟩ is /s/. *yod*-coalescence has altered instances of /s/ particularly in unstressed syllables to /ʃ/ in most varieties of English affecting words such as *ocean*, *logician* and *magician*. Generally, the soft ⟨c⟩ pronunciation occurs before ⟨i e y⟩; it also occurs before ⟨ae⟩ and ⟨oe⟩ in a number of Greek and Latin loanwords (such as *coelacanth*, *caecum*, *caesar*). The hard ⟨c⟩ pronunciation occurs everywhere else<sup>[3]</sup> except in the letter combinations ⟨sc⟩, ⟨ch⟩, and ⟨sch⟩ which have distinct pronunciation rules. Double ⟨cc⟩ generally represents /ks/ before ⟨i e y⟩, as in *accident*, *succeed*, and *coccyx*.

There are exceptions to the general rules of hard and soft ⟨c⟩:

- The ⟨c⟩ in the words *Celt* and *Celtic* was traditionally soft but since the late 19th century the hard pronunciation has also been recognized in conscious imitation of the classical Latin pronunciation of *Celtae*, see Pronunciation of Celtic. Welsh and Gaelic loanwords in English which retain their native spelling, such as *ceilidh*, *cistvaen* (alternatively spelled ⟨kistvaen⟩) or *Cymric* are also pronounced hard.
- The ⟨c⟩ is hard in *arcine*, *soccer*, *recce*, and *Quebecer* (alternatively spelled ⟨Quebecker⟩).
- The ⟨sc⟩ in *sceptic*, and its derivatives such as *sceptical* and *scepticism*, represents /sk/. These words are alternative spellings to ⟨skeptical⟩ and ⟨skepticism⟩, respectively.
- The ⟨cc⟩ of *flaccid* now sometimes represents a single soft ⟨c⟩ pronunciation /flæksɪd/, which is a simplification of usual /flæksɪd/.
- The ⟨c⟩ is silent before ⟨t⟩ in *indict*, derivatives of *indict* such as *indictment*, and the name of the U.S. state *Connecticut*.

A silent ⟨e⟩ can occur after ⟨c⟩ at the end of a word or component root word part of a larger word. The ⟨e⟩ can serve a marking function indicating that the preceding ⟨c⟩ is soft as in *dance* and *enhancement*. The silent ⟨e⟩ often additionally indicates that the vowel before ⟨c⟩ is a long vowel, as in *rice*, *mace*, and *pacesetter*.

When adding suffixes with ⟨i e y⟩ (such as *-ed*, *-ing*, *-er*, *-est*, *-ism*, *-ist*, *-y*, and *-ie*) to root words ending in ⟨ce⟩, the final ⟨e⟩ of the root word is often dropped and the root word retains the soft ⟨c⟩ pronunciation as in *danced*, *dancing*, and *dancer* from *dance*. The suffixes *-ify* and *-ise/-ize* can be added to most nouns and adjectives to form new verbs. The pronunciation of ⟨c⟩ in newly coined words using these suffixes is not always clear. The digraph ⟨ck⟩ may be used to retain the hard ⟨c⟩ pronunciation in inflections and derivatives of a word such as *trafficking* from the verb *traffic*.

There are several cases in English in which hard and soft ⟨c⟩ alternate with the addition of suffixes as in *critic/criticism* and *electric/electricity* (*electrician* has a soft ⟨c⟩ pronunciation of /ʃ/ because of *yod-coalescence*).

## Letter combinations

A number of two-letter combinations or digraphs follow distinct pronunciation patterns and don't follow the hard/soft distinction of ⟨c⟩. For example, ⟨ch⟩ may represent /tʃ/ (as in *chicken*), /ʃ/ (as in *chef*), or /k/ (as in *choir*). Other letter combinations that don't follow the paradigm include ⟨cz⟩, ⟨sc⟩, ⟨cs⟩, ⟨tch⟩, ⟨sch⟩, and ⟨tsch⟩. These come primarily from loanwords.

Besides a few examples (*recce*, *soccer*, *Speccy*), ⟨c⟩ fits neatly with the regular rules of ⟨c⟩: Before ⟨i e y⟩, the second ⟨c⟩ is soft while the first is hard. Words such as *accept* and *success* are pronounced with /ks/ and words such as *succumb* and *accommodate* are pronounced with /k/. Exceptions include loanwords from Italian such as *cappuccino* with /tʃ/ for ⟨cc⟩.

Many placenames and other proper nouns with *-cester* (from Old English *ceaster*, meaning Roman station or walled town) are pronounced with /stɜr/ such as *Worcester* /ˈwʊstɜr/, *Gloucester* /ˈɡlɒstɜr/, and *Leicester* /ˈlɛstɜr/. The /s/ pronunciation occurs as a combination of a historically soft ⟨c⟩ pronunciation and historical elision of the first vowel of the suffix.

## Italian loanwords

The original spellings and pronunciations of Italian loanwords have mostly been kept. Many English words that have been borrowed from Italian follow a distinct set of pronunciation rules corresponding to those in Italian. The Italian soft ⟨c⟩ pronunciation is /tʃ/ (as in *cello* and *ciao*), while the hard ⟨c⟩ is the same as in English. Italian orthography uses ⟨ch⟩ to indicate a hard pronunciation before ⟨e⟩ or ⟨i⟩, analogous to English using ⟨k⟩ (as in *kill* and *keep*) and ⟨qu⟩ (as in *mosquito* and *queue*).

In addition to hard and soft ⟨c⟩, the digraph ⟨sc⟩ represents /ʃ/ when followed by ⟨e⟩ or ⟨i⟩ (as in *crescendo* and *fascia*). Italian uses ⟨cc⟩ to indicate the gemination of /kk/ before ⟨a⟩, ⟨o⟩, ⟨u⟩ or /ttʃ/ before ⟨e⟩ or ⟨i⟩. English does not usually geminate consonants and therefore loanwords with soft ⟨cc⟩ are pronounced with /tʃ/ as with *cappuccino*, pronounced /ˌkæpəˈtʃɪnoʊ/.

## Suffixation issues

Rarely, the use of unusual suffixed forms to create neologisms occurs. For example, the words *sac* and *bloc* are both standard words but adding *-iness* or *-ism* (both productive affixes in English) would create spellings that seem to indicate soft ⟨c⟩ pronunciations. (*saciness* and *blocism*). Potential remedies include altering the spelling to *sackiness* and *blockism*, though no standard conventions exist.

## Use of ⟨k⟩

Sometimes ⟨k⟩ replaces ⟨c⟩, ⟨ck⟩, or ⟨qu⟩ in product names (e.g. Kool-Aid, Nesquik). Similarly, the hard ⟨c⟩ is frequently replaced by a ⟨k⟩, as in the *Mortal Kombat* franchise. Further use of ⟨k⟩ is found as a trope for giving words a hard-edged or whimsical feel. Such as singer Akon's 2006-release album *Konvicted*. More intensely, this use of ⟨k⟩ has also been used to give extreme right-wing or racist connotations. Examples include *Amerika* or *Amerikkka* (where the ⟨k⟩ is reminiscent of German and the totalitarian Nazi regime as well as the racist Ku Klux Klan).

## Other languages

All modern Romance languages make the hard/soft distinction with ⟨c⟩,<sup>[1]</sup> except a few that have undergone spelling reforms such as Ladino and Haitian Creole. Some non-Romance languages like German, Danish and Dutch use ⟨c⟩ in loanwords and also make this distinction.<sup>[4]</sup> The soft ⟨c⟩ pronunciation, which occurs before ⟨i⟩, ⟨e⟩ and ⟨y⟩,<sup>[5]</sup> is:

1. /tʃ/ in Italian<sup>[6]</sup> and Romanian;
2. /s/ in English, French,<sup>[2]</sup> Portuguese,<sup>[7]</sup> Catalan,<sup>[8]</sup> Latin American Spanish,<sup>[2]</sup> Dutch, and the Scandinavian languages
3. /θ/ in European Spanish.<sup>[2]</sup>
4. /ts/ in words loaned into German.

The hard ⟨c⟩ occurs in all other positions and represents /k/ in all these aforementioned languages.

A number of orthographies don't make hard/soft distinction. The ⟨c⟩ is always hard in Welsh, Irish, and Scottish Gaelic – but is always soft in Slavic languages, Hungarian, and the Hanyu Pinyin transcription system of Mandarin Chinese, where it represents /ts/ or /tʃ/.

In Italian<sup>[6]</sup> and Romanian,<sup>[9]</sup> the orthographic convention for representing /k/ before front vowels is to add ⟨h⟩ (Italian *chiaro*, [ˈkjaːro] 'clear'). ⟨qu⟩ is used to accomplish the same purpose in Catalan,<sup>[8]</sup> Portuguese,<sup>[7]</sup> Spanish,<sup>[1]</sup> and French.

In French,<sup>[10]</sup> Catalan,<sup>[8]</sup> and Portuguese,<sup>[7]</sup> a cedilla is used to indicate a soft /s/ pronunciation when it would otherwise seem to be hard. (French *garçon*, [ɡaʁˈsɔ̃], 'boy'; Portuguese *coração*, [koraˈsɐw̃], 'heart'; Catalan *caçar*, [kəˈsa], 'to hunt'). Spanish is similar, though ⟨z⟩ is used instead of ⟨ç⟩ (e.g. *corazón* [koraˈθon] 'heart').<sup>[1]</sup>

Norwegian and Swedish have a similar phenomenon with **hard and soft ⟨k⟩**: this results from a similar historical palatalization development. Soft ⟨k⟩ in these languages is typically a palatal [ç] or an alveolo-palatal [c̟], and occurs before not only ⟨i⟩, ⟨e⟩ and ⟨y⟩, but also ⟨j⟩, ⟨æ⟩/⟨ä⟩, and ⟨o⟩/⟨ö⟩.

## See also

- C
- English orthography
- I before E except after C
- Hard and soft G

## Notes

- ↑ *<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> <sup>d</sup>* Arnaud (1945:38)
- ↑ *<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> <sup>d</sup>* Emerson (1997:261)
- ↑ Emerson (1997:266)
- ↑ Venezky (1970:260)
- ↑ Arnaud (1945:37)
- ↑ *<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup>* Hall (1944:82)
- ↑ *<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup>* Mateus & d'Andrade (2000:7)
- ↑ *<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup>* Wheeler (1979:7)
- ↑ Venezky (1970:261)
- ↑ Tranel (1987:12)

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Categories: Consonants | Spelling | English spelling

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# English orthography

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**English orthography** is the alphabetic spelling system used by the English language. English orthography, like other alphabetic orthographies, uses a set of habits to represent speech sounds in writing. In most other languages, these habits are regular enough so that they may be called *rules*. In standard English spelling, however, nearly every sound is spelled in more than one way, and most spellings and all letters can be pronounced in more than one way and often in many different ways. This is partly due to the complex history of the English language,<sup>[1]</sup> but mainly because no systematic spelling reform has been implemented in English, contrary to the situation in most other languages.

In general, English spelling does not reflect the sound changes in the pronunciation of the language that have occurred since the late fifteenth century.<sup>[2]</sup>

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## Function of the letters

*Note: In the following discussion, only one or two common pronunciations of American and British English varieties are used in this article for each word cited. Other regional pronunciations may be possible for some words, but indicating all possible regional variants in the article is impractical.*

### Phonemic representation

*Further information: Phonemic orthography*

Like most alphabetic systems, letters in English orthography may represent a particular sound. For example, the word *cat* /ˈkæt/ consists of three letters ⟨c⟩, ⟨a⟩, and ⟨t⟩, in which ⟨c⟩ represents the sound /k/, ⟨a⟩ the sound /æ/, and ⟨t⟩ the sound /t/.

Single letters or multiple sequences of letters may provide this function. Thus, the single letter ⟨c⟩ in the word *cat* represents the single sound /k/. In the word *ship* (pronounced /ˈʃɪp/), the digraph ⟨sh⟩ (two letters) represents the sound /ʃ/. In the word *ditch*, the three letters ⟨tch⟩ represent the sound /tʃ/.

Less commonly, a single letter can represent multiple sounds lenis in succession. The most common example is the letter ⟨x⟩ which normally represents the consonant cluster /ks/ (for example, in the word *ex-wife*, pronounced /ˌɛksˈwaɪfi/).

The same letter (or sequence of letters) may indicate different sounds when it occurs in different positions within a word. For instance, the digraph ⟨gh⟩ represents the sound /f/ at the end of some words, such as *rough* /ˈrʌf/. At the beginning of syllables (i.e. the syllable onset), the digraph ⟨gh⟩ represents the sound /g/, such as in the word *ghost* (pronounced /ˈɡoʊst/). Conversely, the digraph ⟨gh⟩ never represents the sound /f/ in syllable onsets and almost never represents the sound /g/ in syllable codas (*Pittsburgh* is an exception). (Incidentally, this shows that *ghoti* does not follow English spelling rules to sound like *fish*.)

### Word origin

*See also: Hard and soft C, Hard and soft G, Silent k, and Palatalization*

Another type of spelling characteristic is related to word origin. For example, when representing a vowel, the letter ⟨y⟩ in non-word-final positions, represents the sound /ɪ/ in some words borrowed from Greek (reflecting an original upsilon), whereas the letter usually representing this sound in non-Greek words is the letter ⟨i⟩. Thus, the word *myth* /ˈmɪθ/ is of Greek origin, while *pith* /ˈpɪθ/ is a Germanic word. Other examples include ⟨ph⟩ representing /f/ (which is usually represented by ⟨f⟩), and ⟨ch⟩

representing /k/ (which is usually represented by ⟨c⟩ or ⟨k⟩) – the use of these spellings for these sounds often mark words that have been borrowed from Greek.

Some researchers such as Brengelman (1970), have suggested that, in addition to this marking of word origin, these spellings indicate a more formal level of style or register in a given text, although Rollins (2004) finds this point to be exaggerated as there would be many exceptions where a word with one of these spellings, such as ⟨ph⟩ for /f/ (like *telephone*), could occur in an informal text.

### Homophone differentiation

Spelling may also be used to distinguish between homophones (words with the same pronunciation but different meanings). For example, the words *heir* and *air* are pronounced identically in most dialects (as /ˈɛər/). However, they are distinguished from each other orthographically by the addition of the letter ⟨h⟩. Another example is the pair of homophones *plain* and *plane*, where both are pronounced /ˈpleɪn/ but are marked with two different orthographic representations of the vowel /ɛɪ/.<sup>[3]</sup>

In written language, this may help to resolve potential ambiguities that would arise otherwise (cf. *He's breaking the car* vs. *He's braking the car*). Nevertheless, homophones that are unresolved by spelling still exist (for example, the word *bay* has at least five fundamentally different meanings).

Some proponents of spelling reform view homophones as undesirable and would prefer that they be eliminated. Doing so, however, would increase orthographic ambiguities (such as the break/brake example above) that would need to be resolved via the linguistic context, as it is in the spoken language.

### Marking sound changes in other letters

*See also: Silent e*

Another function of English letters is to provide information about the pronunciation of *other* letters in the word. Rollins (2004) uses the term "markers" for letters with this function. Letters may mark different types of information. One type of marking is that of a different pronunciation of another letter within the word. An example of this is letter ⟨e⟩ in the word *cottage* /ˈkɒtɪdʒ/. Here ⟨e⟩ indicates that the preceding ⟨g⟩ should represent the sound /ɔʒ/, rather than the more common value of ⟨g⟩ in word-final position as the sound /ɡ/, such as in *tag* /ˈtæɡ/.

A particular letter may have more than one pronunciation-marking role. Besides the marking of word-final ⟨g⟩ as indicating /ɔʒ/ as in *cottage*, the letter ⟨e⟩ often marks an altered pronunciation for preceding vowels. In the pair *ban* and *bane*, the ⟨a⟩ of *ban* has the value /æ/, whereas the ⟨a⟩ of *bane* is marked by the ⟨e⟩ as having the value /ɛɪ/. In this context, the ⟨e⟩ is not pronounced, and is referred to as "silent e".

A single letter may even fill multiple pronunciation-marking roles simultaneously. For example, in the word *wage* the ⟨e⟩ marks not only the change of the ⟨a⟩ from /æ/ to /ɛɪ/, but also of the ⟨g⟩ from /ɡ/ to /ɔʒ/.

### Multiple functionality

A given letter or (letters) may have dual functions. For example, the letter ⟨i⟩ in the word *cinema* has a sound-representing function (representing the sound /ɪ/) and a pronunciation-marking function (marking the ⟨c⟩ as having the value /s/ opposed to the value /k/).

### Underlying representation

Like many other alphabetic orthographies, English spelling does not represent non-contrastive phonetic sounds (that is, sub-phonemic sounds). The fact that the letter ⟨t⟩ is pronounced with aspiration [tʰ] at the beginning of words is never indicated in the spelling, and, indeed, this phonetic detail is probably not noticeable to the average native speaker not trained in phonetics. However, unlike some orthographies, English orthography often represents a very abstract underlying representation (or morphophonemic form) of English words.<sup>[4]</sup>

[T]he postulated underlying forms are systematically related to the conventional orthography ... and are, as is well known, related to the underlying forms of a much earlier historical stage of the language. There has, in other words, been little change in lexical representation since Middle English, and, consequently, we would expect ... that lexical representation would differ very little from dialect to dialect in Modern English ... [and] that conventional orthography is probably fairly close to optimal for all modern English dialects, as well as for the attested dialects of the past several hundred years.<sup>[5]</sup>

In these cases, a given morpheme (i.e. a component of a word) is represented with a single spelling despite the fact that it is pronounced differently (i.e. has different surface representations) in different environments. An example is the past tense suffix *-(ed)*, which may be pronounced variously as /t/, /d/, or /ɪd/ (for example, *dip* /dɪp/, *dipped* /dɪpt/, *boom* /ˈbʊːm/, *boomed* /ˈbʊːmd/, *loot* /ˈluːt/, *looted* /ˈluːtɪd/). Because these different pronunciations of *-(ed)* can be predicted by a few phonological rules, only a single spelling is needed in the orthography.

Another example involves the vowel differences (with accompanying stress pattern changes) in several related words. For instance, the word *photographer* is derived from the word *photograph* by adding the derivational suffix *-(er)*. When this suffix is added, the vowel pronunciations change largely owing to the moveable stress:

Spelling	Pronunciation
<i>photograph</i>	/ <span>ˈ</span> <span>fɒtəɡræf</span> / or / <span>ˈ</span> <span>fɒtəɡrɑːf</span> /
<i>photographer</i>	/ <span>f</span> <span>ə</span> <span>ˈ</span> <span>t</span> <span>ɡ</span> <span>r</span> <span>ə</span> <span>f</span> <span>ə</span> <span>r</span> /
<i>photographical</i>	/ <span>ˈ</span> <span>f</span> <span>ə</span> <span>t</span> <span>ə</span> <span>ˈ</span> <span>ɡ</span> <span>r</span> <span>æ</span> <span>f</span> <span>ɪ</span> <span>k</span> <span>əl</span> /

It could be argued that the underlying representation of *photo* is a single phonological form, such as /ˈfɒtəɡrɑːf/. Since the (surface) pronunciation of the vowels can be largely predicted by phonological rules according to the different stress patterns, the orthography only needs to have one spelling that corresponds to the underlying form. Other examples of this type include words with the *-(ity)* suffix (as in *agile* vs *agility*, *acid* vs *acidity*, *divine* vs *divinity*, *sane* vs *sanity*, etc.). (See also: Trisyllabic laxing.)

Another example includes words like *sign* /ˈsɑɪn/ and *bomb* /ˈbɒm/ where the "silent" letters ⟨g⟩ and ⟨b⟩, respectively, seem to be "inert" letters with no functional role. However, there are the related words *signature* and *bombard* in which the so-called "silent" letters are pronounced /ˈsɪɡnətʃər/ and /ˈbɒmˈbɑːd/, respectively. Here it could be argued that the underlying representation of *sign* and *bomb* is |sɑɪgn| and |bɒmb|, in which the underlying [ɡ] and [b] are only pronounced in the surface forms

when followed by certain suffixes (-ature), (-ard). Otherwise, the [ɡ] and [b] are not realized in the surface pronunciation (e.g. when standing alone, or when followed by suffixes like -(ing) or -(er)). In these cases, the orthography indicates the underlying consonants that are present in certain words but are absent in other related words. Other examples include the (t) in *fast* /'fɑːst/ and *fasten* /'fɑːsən/, and the (h) in *heir* /'eɪr/ and *inherit* /ɪn'herɪt/.

Another example includes words like *mean* /'miːn/ and *meant* /'ment/. Here the vowel spelling (ea) is pronounced differently in the two related words. Thus, again the orthography uses only a single spelling that corresponds to the single morphemic form rather than to the surface phonological form.

English orthography does not always provide an underlying representation; sometimes it provides an intermediate representation between the underlying form and the surface pronunciation. This is the case with the spelling of the regular plural morpheme, which is written as either -(s) (as in *tick*, *ticks* and *mite*, *mites*) or -(es) (as in *box*, *boxes*). Here the spelling -(s) is pronounced either /s/ or /z/ (depending on the environment, e.g. *ticks* /'tɪks/ and *pigs* /'pɪgz/) while -(es) is usually pronounced /ɪz/ (e.g. *boxes* /'bɒksɪz/). Thus, there are two different spellings that correspond to the single underlying representation [z] of the plural suffix and the three surface forms. The spelling indicates the insertion of /h/ before the /z/ in the spelling -(es), but does not indicate the devoiced /s/ distinctly from the unaffected /z/ in the spelling -(s).

The abstract representation of words as indicated by the orthography can be considered advantageous since it makes etymological relationships more apparent to English readers. This makes writing English more complex, but arguably makes reading English more efficient.<sup>[6]</sup> However, very abstract underlying representations, such as that of Chomsky & Halle (1968) or of underspecification theories, are sometimes considered too abstract to accurately reflect the communicative competence of native speakers. Followers of these arguments believe the less abstract surface forms are more "psychologically real" and thus more useful in terms of pedagogy.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Diacritics

*Main article: English words with diacritics*

*See also: British and American keyboards and keyboard layouts*

English includes some words that can be written with accent marks. These words have mostly been imported from other languages, usually French. As imported words become increasingly naturalised, there is an increasing tendency to omit the accent marks, even in formal writing. For example, words such as *rôle* and *hôtel* were first seen with accents when they were borrowed into English, but now the accent is almost never used. The words were originally considered French borrowings – even accused by some of being foreign phrases used where English alternatives would suffice – but today their French origin is largely forgotten. The strongest tendency to retain the accent is in words that are atypical of English morphology and therefore still perceived as slightly foreign. For example, *café* and *pâté* both have a pronounced final *e*, which would otherwise be silent by the normal English pronunciation rules.

Further examples of words often retaining diacritics when used in English are: *appliqué*, *attaché*, *blasé*, *bric-à-brac*, *brötchen*,<sup>[8]</sup> *cliché*, *crème*, *crêpe*, *façade*, *fiancé(e)*, *flambé*, *naïve*, *naïveté*, *né(e)*, *papier-mâché*, *passé*, *piñata*, *protégé*, *résumé*, *risqué*, *über-*, *voilà*. Italics, with appropriate accents, are generally applied to foreign terms that are uncommonly used in or have not been assimilated into English: for example, *adiós*, *coup d'état*, *crème brûlée*, *pièce de résistance*, *raison d'être*, *über* (*übermensch*), *vis-à-vis*.

It was formerly common in English to use a diaeresis mark to indicate a hiatus: for example, *coöperate*, *dais*, *reëlect*. *The New Yorker* and *Technology Review* magazines still use it for this purpose, even though it is increasingly rare in modern English. Nowadays the diaeresis is normally left out (*cooperate*), or a hyphen is used (*co-operate*). It is, however, still common in loanwords such as *naïve* and *noël*.

Written accents are also used occasionally in poetry and scripts for dramatic performances to indicate that a certain normally unstressed syllable in a word should be stressed for dramatic effect, or to keep with the metre of the poetry. This use is frequently seen in archaic and pseudoarchaic writings with the *-ed* suffix, to indicate that the *e* should be fully pronounced, as with *cursèd*.

## Ligatures

In certain older texts (typically British), the use of the ligatures æ and œ is common in words such as *archæology*, *diarrhœa*, and *encyclopædia*. Such words have Latin or Greek origin. Nowadays, the ligatures have been generally replaced in British English by the separated digraph *ae* and *oe* (*encyclopaedia*, *diarrhoea*; but usually *economy*, *ecology*) and in American English by *e* (*encyclopedia*, *diarrhea*; but usually *paean*, *amoeba*, *oedipal*, *Caesar*). In some cases, usage may vary; for instance, both *encyclopedia* and *encyclopaedia* are current in the UK.

## Irregularities – phonic

*See also: English spelling reform*

The English spelling system, compared to the systems used in many other languages, is quite irregular and complex. Although French presents a similar degree of difficulty when *encoding* (writing), English is more difficult when *decoding* (reading).<sup>[citation needed]</sup> For example, in French the [u] sound (as in 'food'), can be spelled *ou*, *ous*, *out*, or *oux* (*ou*, *nous*, *tout*, *choux*), but the pronunciation of those sequences is always the same. In English, the /u:/ sound can be spelled **oo** or **u**, **u-e**, **ui**, **ue**, **o**, **oe**, **o-e**, **o-b**, **ou**, **ough**, or **ew** (food, truth, rude, fruit, blue, to, shoe, move, tomb, group, through, flew), but 10 of the latter 12 sequences have other pronunciations as well: flood, rub, build, go, toe, drove, comb, out, rough, sew.

English has never had any formal regulating authority for spelling, such as the Spanish Real Academia Española, Italian Accademia della Crusca or the French Académie française.

## Spelling irregularities

Attempts to regularize or reform the language, including spelling reform, have usually met with failure. The only significant exceptions were the reforms of Noah Webster which resulted in many of the differences between British and American spelling, such as *center/centre*, and *dialog/dialogue*. (Other differences, such as *-ize/-ise* in *realize/realise* etc., came about separately; see American and British English spelling differences for details.)

Besides the quirks the English spelling system has inherited from its past, there are other idiosyncrasies in spelling that make it tricky to learn. English contains 24–27 (depending on dialect) separate consonant phonemes and, depending on dialect, anywhere from fourteen to twenty vowels. However, there are only 26 letters in the modern English alphabet, so there cannot be a one-to-one correspondence between letters and sounds. Many sounds are spelled using different letters or multiple letters,

and for those words whose pronunciation is predictable from the spelling, the sounds denoted by the letters depend on the surrounding letters. For example, the digraph *th* represents two different sounds (the voiced interdental fricative and the voiceless interdental fricative) (see Pronunciation of English *th*), and the voiceless alveolar grooved fricative can be represented by the letters *s* and *c*.

It is, however, not the shortage of letters which makes English spelling irregular. Its irregularities are caused by the use of many different spellings for some of its sounds, such as the **long oo**, **ee** and **oe** sounds (**too**, **true**, **shoe**, **flew**, **through**; **sleeve**, **leave**, **even**, **seize**, **siege**; **stole**, **coal**, **bowl**, **roll**, **old**, **mould**), and the use of identical sequences for spelling different sounds (**over**, **oven**, **move**).

Furthermore, English makes no attempt to Anglicise the spellings of most recent loanwords, but preserves the foreign spellings, even when they employ exotic conventions like the Polish *cz* in *Czech* or the Norwegian *ff* in *fjord* (although *fiord* was formerly the most common spelling). In fact, instead of loans being respelled to conform to English spelling standards, sometimes the pronunciation changes as a result of pressure from the spelling. One example of this is the word *ski*, which was adopted from Norwegian in the mid-18th century, although it did not become common until 1900. It used to be pronounced *shee*, which is similar to the Norwegian pronunciation, but the increasing popularity of the sport after the middle of the 20th century helped the *sk* pronunciation replace it.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>

There was also a period when the spelling of words was altered in what is now regarded as a misguided attempt to make them conform to what were perceived to be the etymological origins of the words. For example, the letter *b* was added to *debt* (originally *dette*) in an attempt to link it to the Latin *debitum*, and the letter *s* in *island* is a misplaced attempt to link it to Latin *insula* instead of the Old English word *īgland*, which is the true origin of the English word. The letter *p* in *ptarmigan* has no etymological justification whatsoever, only seeking to invoke Greek despite being a Gaelic word.

The spelling of English continues to evolve. Many loanwords come from languages where the pronunciation of vowels corresponds to the way they were pronounced in Old English, which is similar to the Italian or Spanish pronunciation of the vowels, and is the value the vowel symbols [a], [e], [i], [o], and [u] have in the International Phonetic Alphabet. As a result, there is a somewhat regular system of pronouncing "foreign" words in English,<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> and some borrowed words have had their spelling changed to conform to this system. For example, *Hindu* used to be spelled *Hindoo*, and the name *Maria* used to be pronounced like the name *Mariah*, but was changed to conform to this system.

Commercial advertisers have also had an effect on English spelling. They introduced new or simplified spellings like *lite* instead of *light*, *thru* instead of *through*, *smokey* instead of *smoky* (for "smokey bacon" flavour crisps), and *rucsac* instead of *rucksack*. The spellings of personal names have also been a source of spelling innovations: affectionate versions of women's names that sound the same as men's names have been spelled differently: *Nikki* and *Nicky*, *Toni* and *Tony*, *Jo* and *Joe*.

As examples of the idiosyncratic nature of English spelling, the combination *ou* can be pronounced in at least four different ways: /ə/ in *famous*, /aʊ/ in *loud*, /ʊ/ in *should*, /u:/ in *you*; and the vowel sound /i:/ in *me* can be spelt in at least nine different ways: *paediatric*, *me*, *seat*, *seem*, *ceiling*, *people*, *machine*, *siege*, *phoenix*. (These examples assume a more-or-less standard non-regional British English accent. Other accents will vary.)

Sometimes everyday speakers of English change a counterintuitive pronunciation simply because it is counterintuitive. Changes like this are not usually seen as "standard", but can become standard if used enough. An example is the word *minuscule*, which still competes with its original spelling of *minuscule*, though this might also be because of analogy with the word *mini*.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> A further example is the modern pronunciation of *tissue*.

## History

Inconsistencies and irregularities in English spelling have gradually increased in number throughout the history of the English language. There are a number of contributing factors. First, gradual changes in pronunciation, such as the Great Vowel Shift, account for a tremendous number of irregularities. Second, relatively recent loan words from other languages generally carry their original spellings, which are often not phonetic in English. The Romanization of languages (e.g., Chinese) using alphabets derived from the Latin alphabet has further complicated this problem, for example when pronouncing Chinese proper names (of people or places).

The regular spelling system of Old English was swept away by the Norman Conquest, and English itself was eclipsed by Norman French for three centuries, eventually emerging with its spelling much influenced by French. English had also borrowed large numbers of words from French, which for reasons of prestige and familiarity kept their French spellings. The spelling of Middle English, such as in the writings of Geoffrey Chaucer, is very irregular and inconsistent, with the same word being spelled differently, sometimes even in the same sentence. However, these were generally much better guides to pronunciation than modern English spelling can honestly claim.

For example, the sound /n/, normally written *u*, is spelled with an *o* in *son*, *love*, *come*, etc., due to Norman spelling conventions which prohibited writing *u* before *v*, *m*, *n* due to the graphical confusion that would result. (*v*, *u*, *n* were identically written with two minims in Norman handwriting; *w* was written as two *u* letters; *m* was written with three minims, hence *mm* looked like *vuu*, *nvu*, *uvu*, etc.) Similarly, spelling conventions also prohibited final *v*. Hence the identical spellings of the three different vowel sounds in *love*, *grove* and *prove* are due to ambiguity in the Middle English spelling system, not sound change.

There was also a series of linguistic sound changes towards the end of this period, including the Great Vowel Shift, which resulted in the *i* in *mine*, for example, changing from a pure vowel to a diphthong. These changes for the most part did not detract from the rule-governed nature of the spelling system; but in some cases they introduced confusing inconsistencies, like the well-known example of the many pronunciations of *ough* (*rough*, *through*, *though*, *trough*, *plough*, etc.). Most of these changes happened before the arrival of printing in England. However, the arrival of the printing press merely froze the current system, rather than providing the impetus for a realignment of spelling with pronunciation. Furthermore, it introduced further inconsistencies, partly because of the use of typesetters trained abroad, particularly in the Low Countries. For example, the *h* in *ghost* was influenced by Dutch.<sup>[9]</sup> The addition and deletion of a silent *e* at the ends of words was also sometimes used to make the right-hand margin line up more neatly.<sup>[9]</sup>

By the time dictionaries were introduced in the mid 17th century, the spelling system of English started to stabilize. By the 19th century, most words had set spellings, though it took some time before they diffused throughout the English-speaking world. In *The Mill on the Floss* (1860), English novelist George Eliot satirized the attitude of the English rural gentry of the 1820s towards orthography:

Mr. Tulliver did not willingly write a letter, and found the relation between spoken and written language, briefly known as spelling, one of the most puzzling things in this puzzling world. Nevertheless, like all fervid writing, the task was done in less time than usual, and if the spelling differed from Mrs. Glegg's,—why, she belonged, like himself, to a generation with whom spelling was a matter of private judgment.

The modern English spelling system, with its national variants, spread together with the expansion of public education later in the nineteenth century.

## "Ough" words

*Main article: Ough (combination)*

The most notorious group of letters in the English language, *ough*, is commonly pronounced at least ten different ways, six of which are illustrated in the construct, *Though the tough cough and hiccough plough him through*, which is quoted by Robert A. Heinlein in *The Door into Summer* to illustrate the difficulties facing automated speech transcription and reading. *Ough* is in fact a word in its own right; it is an exclamation of disgust similar to *ugh*.

- *though*: /oʊ/ as in *toe*; (other examples: *dough*)
- *tough*: /ʌ/ as in *cuff*; (other examples: *rough*, *enough*)
- *cough*: /ɒ/ as in *off*; (other examples: *Gough* (name, some pronunciations))
- *hiccough* (a now uncommon variant of *hiccup*): /ʌp/ as in *up*; (unique)
- *plough*: /aʊ/ as in *cow*; (other examples: *sough*, *drought*, *bough*, and the name *Doughty*)
- *through*: /u:/ as in *blue*;
- *nought*: /ɔ:/ as in *caught*. (other examples: *ought*, *sought*, *thought*, *brought*)
- *lough*: /ɒ/ with a rough breathing sound like the **ch** in *loch*

Finally, there is the place name Loughborough, where the first *ough* has the sound as in *cuff* and the second rhymes with *thorough*.

## Spelling patterns

### Spelling to sound correspondences

#### Vowels

In a generative approach to English spelling, Rollins (2004) identifies twenty main orthographic vowels of stressed syllables that are grouped into four main categories: "Lax", "Tense", "Heavy", "Tense-R". (As this classification is based on orthography, not all orthographic "lax" vowels are necessarily phonologically lax.)

General American					Received Pronunciation (British)				
Letter	Lax	Tense	Heavy	Tense-R	Letter	Lax	Tense	Heavy	Tense-R
a	/æ/ <i>man</i>	/eɪ/ <i>mane</i>	ɑ <i>mar</i>	/ɛ/ <i>mare</i>	a	/æ/ <i>man</i>	/eɪ/ <i>mane</i>	/ɑ:/ <i>mar</i>	/ɛə/ <i>mare</i>
e	/ɛ/ <i>met</i>	/i/ <i>mete</i>	ɜ <i>her</i>	/ɪ/ <i>here</i>	e	/ɛ/ <i>met</i>	/i:/ <i>mete</i>	ɜ: <i>her</i>	/ɪə/ <i>here</i>
i	/ɪ/ <i>win</i>	/aɪ/ <i>wine</i>	ɜ <i>fɪr</i>	/aɪ/ <i>fire</i>	i	/ɪ/ <i>win</i>	/aɪ/ <i>wine</i>	ɜ: <i>fɪr</i>	/aɪə/ <i>fire</i>
o	ɑ <i>mop</i>	/oʊ/ <i>mope</i>	ɔ <i>for, fore</i>		o	/ɒ/ <i>mop</i>	/əʊ/ <i>mope</i>	/ɔ:/ <i>for, fore</i>	
u	/ʌ/ <i>hug</i>	ju <i>huge</i>	ɜ <i>cur</i>	/jʊ/ <i>cure</i>	u	/ʌ/ <i>hug</i>	/ju:/ <i>huge</i>	ɜ: <i>cur</i>	/jʊə/ <i>cure</i>
u	/ʊ/ <i>push</i>	u <i>rude</i>	–	/ʊ/ <i>sure</i>	u	/ʊ/ <i>push</i>	/u:/ <i>rude</i>	–	/ʊə/ <i>sure</i>

For instance, the letter *a* can represent the lax vowel /æ/, tense /eɪ/, heavy /ɑ:/, or (often allophonically) [ɛə] before /r/. Heavy and tense-r vowels are the respective lax and tense counterparts followed by the letter *r*.

Tense vowels are distinguished from lax vowels with a "silent" *e* letter that is added at the end of words. Thus, the letter *a* in *hat* is lax /æ/, but when the letter *e* is added in the word *hate* the letter *a* is tense /eɪ/. Similarly, heavy and tense-r vowels pattern together: the letters *ar* in *car* are heavy /ɑr/, the letters *ar* followed by silent *e* in the word *care* are /ɛər/. The letter *u* represents two different vowel patterns, one being /ʌ, /ju:/, /ə/, /jʊ/, the other /ʊ/, /u:/, /ʊ/. There is no distinction between heavy and tense-r vowels with the letter *o*, and the letter *u* in the /ʊ-u:-ʊ/ pattern does not have a heavy vowel member.

Besides silent *e*, another strategy for indicating tense and tense-r vowels, is the addition of another orthographic vowel forming a digraph. In this case, the first vowel is usually the main vowel while the second vowel is the "marking" vowel. For example, the word *man* has a lax *a* pronounced /æ/, but with the addition of *i* (as the digraph *ai*) in the word *main* the *a* is marked as tense and pronounced /eɪ/. These two strategies produce words that are spelled differently but pronounced identically, as in *mane* (silent *e* strategy), *main* (digraph strategy) and *Maine* (both strategies). The use of two different strategies relates to the function of distinguishing between words that would otherwise be homonyms.

Besides the 20 basic vowel spellings, Rollins (2004) has a reduced vowel category (representing the sounds /ə, ɪ/) and a miscellaneous category (representing the sounds /ɔɪ, əʊ, aɪ, əʊ/+V, /w/+V, V+V).

#### Combinations of vowel letters

To reduce dialectal difficulties, the sound values given here correspond to the conventions at Wikipedia:IPA for English. This table includes W and Y when they represent vowel sounds; for AR, ER, etc. see the third table.

Spelling	Major value (IPA)	Examples of major value	Minor values (IPA)	Examples of minor value	Exceptions
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a before multiple consonants or in word-final syllables	/æ/	cat, acrobat, banned			/i:/ karaoke /eɪ/ bass, chamber /ɑ:/ father, bra /ɒ/ yacht
a...e (stressed)	/eɪ/	violate, grace, ache	/æ/	have	
a before <i>single consonant</i> (stressed, non-word-final syllables)	/eɪ/	dating, famous, alien	/eɪ/ /æ/	many, any radical, avid	/ɑ:/ gala, sonata
a (unstressed syllables)	/ə/	another, about, desperate	Ø	artistically	
aa	/ɑ:/	bazaar			/eɪ/ quaalude
ae	/i:/	encyclopaedia, paediatrician	/eɪ/	aesthetic	/eɪ/ reggae /aɪ/ maestro
ai, ai...e	/eɪ/	bait, cocaine	/eɪ/	said, again	/æ/ plaid /ɪ/ bargain /aɪ/ samurai, shanghai <b>ed</b>
ao	/eɪ/	gaol			/eɪɔ:/ aorta
au	/ɔ:/	taut, author	/ɔ/	sausage, because, laurel	/eɪ/ gauge /oʊ/ mauve
aw(e)	/ɔ:/	jaw, awesome			
ay, aye	/eɪ/	day	/aɪ/	kayak, aye	/i:/ quay /ɛ/ says
e before <i>single consonant</i> (stressed, non-word-final syllables)	/i:/	receding, detail	/eɪ/ /eɪ/	ukulele, cafe metal, lemon	
e before multiple consonants or in word-final syllables	/ɛ/	get, better	/i:/	lethal, axes (plural of <i>axis</i> )	/ɪ/ pretty
word-final e	/i:/	be, simile, catastrophe		but more often silent	
e (unstressed syllables)	/ə/	taken, wanted			
e...e	/i:/	cede, gene			/eɪ/ crepe
ea	/i:/	beach, eating	/eɪ/ /i:æ/ /i:ə/	bread, healthy reality area	/eɪ/ break, great, steak
ea...e	/i:/	please			/ɛ/ cleanse
eau	/oʊ/	bureau	/ju:/	beauty	/ɔ/ bureaucracy
ee	/i:/	bee, feed			/eɪ/ matinee, fiancée
ei, ei...e	/i:/	deceive, seize, ceiling	/eɪ/ /i:ɪ/	veil, sheikh, vein atheism	/aɪ/ heist, gneiss /ɪ/ counterfeit /ɛ/ helper, leisure
ei before gh, gn	/eɪ/	eight, reign	/aɪ/	height	/ɪ/ foreign
eo	/ɛ/	leopard, jeopardy	/i:/	people	/oʊ/ yeoman /ɪə/ leotard
eou	/iə/	extraneous, hideous			
eu, eue	/ju:/	deuce, queue			
ew, ewe, iew	/ju:/	dew, ewe, view	/u:/	dew, new (some dialects)	/oʊ/ sew
ey (stressed)	/eɪ/	grey, obey	/i:/	key, geyser	
ey (unstressed)	/i:/	monkey			
eye	/aɪ/	eye			
i before <i>single consonant</i> (stressed, non-word-final syllables)	/aɪ/	shining, cited	/ɪ/	livid, insidious	
i before multiple consonants or in word-final syllables	/ɪ/	bit, hitting	/aɪ/	library, pint	/æ/ meringue

i before -nd, -ld, -gh, -gn	/aɪ/	wild, kind, sighing, ensign	/ɪ/	wind (one meaning)	
i (unstressed syllables)	/ɪ/	livid, typical	/ə/	pencil	Ø business
word-final i	/i:/	ski	/aɪ/	alumni	
i...e	/aɪ/	shine, guide	/ɪ/	give, medicine	/i:/ machine
ia	/aɪə/	dialling, vial, liable	/iə/	India, Arabia	
ie (monosyllables, word-final)	/aɪ/	die, tie			
ie (non-word-final)	/i:/	field, series, siege	/aɪ/ /aɪə/ /iə/	flies, tries piety, science alien	/ɪ/ sieve /ɛ/ friend
ie...e	/i:/	hygiene			
ieu	/ju:/	lieu, adieu			
ii	/i:ai/	radii	/i:ɪ/	skiing	
io (stressed)	/aɪə/	riot, diocese	/aɪoʊ/	bio	
io (unstressed)	/iə/	idiot			
iou	/iə/	tedious, scabious			
iu	/iə/	helium, labium			
o before multiple consonants or in word-final syllables	/ɔ/ or /ɑ:/	dot	/ʌ/ /oʊ/ /u:/	won, monkey, front gross, comb tomb, womb	/ʊ/ wolf
o before <i>single consonant</i> (stressed, non-word-final syllables)	/oʊ/	omen, potent, total	/ɒ/	body, topic	/ʊ/ woman /ɪ/ women
word-final o	/oʊ/	banjo, go	/u:/	to, who, two	
o (unstressed syllables)	/ə/	eloquent, wanton			
o...e	/oʊ/	doze, grove	/u:/ /ʌ/	move, lose come, love, done	/ɒ/ gone
oa	/oʊ/	boat			/oʊə/ boa /ɔ:/ broad
oe	/oʊ/	toe, foe	/i:/ /u:/	amoeba, coelacanth shoe, canoe	/ʌ/ does /ɪ/ oedema /oʊɪ/ poetry
oeu	/u:/	manoeuvre			
oi, oy	/ɔɪ/	coin, boy	/oʊɪ/	stoic	/wɑ:/ reservoir
oo before k,d	/ʊ/	look, wood	/ʌ/	blood, flood	/u:/ spook
oo elsewhere, oo...e	/u:/	hoop, booze	/ʊ/	wool	/oʊ/ brooch /oʊɒ/ zoology
ou	/aʊ/	out, aloud, bough	/u:/ /ʌ/ /oʊ/	soup, you, through touch, trouble, country soul, dough, boulder	/ʊ/ courier, should /ɔ/ cough /ə/ camouflage
ow (stressed)	/aʊ/	cow, sow, allow	/oʊ/	know, show	/ɒ/ acknowledge
ow (unstressed)	/oʊ/	yellow, rainbow			
u before multiple consonants or in word-final syllables	/ʌ/	butter, dump	/ʊ/	put, full, pudding	
u before <i>single consonant</i> (stressed, non-word-final syllables)	/u:/	luminous, muted, tuba	/ʊ/	sugar	/ɪ/ busy, minute /ɛ/ bury
u (unstressed syllables)	/ə/	supply			
u...e	/ju:/ or /u:/	flute, rune			
ua	/u:ə/	truant			
ue	/ju:/ or /u:/	blue, cue	/u:ə/	fluent	/weɪ/ suede

ui	/uː/	fruit, juice			/wiː/suite /ɪ/ build, biscuit
uou	/uːə/	ambiguous, fatuous			
uy, uye	/aɪ/	buy, guyed			
y before multiple consonants or in word-final syllables	/ɪ/	myth, cryptic	/aɪ/	hyphen	
y before <i>single consonant</i> (stressed, non-word-final syllables)	/aɪ/	typing	/ɪ/	typical	
y (unstressed syllables)	/ə/	sibyl, beryl			
-y	/iː/	city, happy	/aɪ/	sky, why	
y...e	/aɪ/	type, paralyze			
-ye	/aɪ/	bye			

### Consonants

*See also: Digraph (orthography)*

#### Notes:

- In the tables, the hyphen has two different meanings. A hyphen after the letter indicates that it *must* be at the beginning of a *syllable*, e.g. j- in jumper and ajar. A hyphen before the letter indicates that it *cannot* be at the beginning of a *word*, e.g. -ck in sick and ticket.
- More specific rules take precedence over more general ones, e.g. "c- before e, i or y" takes precedence over "c".
- Where the letter combination is described as "word-final", inflectional suffixes may be added without changing the pronunciation, e.g. catalogues.
- The dialect used is RP.
- Isolated foreign borrowings are excluded.

Spelling	Major value (IPA)	Examples of major value	Other values	Examples of other values
b, -bb	/b/	bit, rabbit, obtain	∅	bdellium, debtor, subtle
c before e, i, y, ae, or oe	/s/	cellar, city, cyst, face, prince, nicer caesium, coelacanth	/tʃ/ /ʃ/ /k/	cello, vermicelli special, liquorice Celts, chicer
c elsewhere	/k/	cat, cross		
-cc before e, i or y	/ks/	accept, eccentric, occidental	/k/ /tʃ/ /s/	soccer, recce, siccing bocece, breccia, cappuccino flaccid
-cc	/k/	account, accrue, occur, yucca		
ch	/tʃ/	chase, chin, attached, chore	/k/ /ʃ/ /h/ ∅	chasm, chimera, ached, chord chaise, machine, cached, parachute chutzpah yacht
-ck	/k/	tack, ticket		
cn-	/n/	cnidarian		
ct-	/t/	ctenoid		
ct	/kt/	victim	/t/	victual, indict
d, -dd, dh	/d/	dive, ladder, jodhpurs	/dʒ/ ∅	graduate, gradual (both also /dj/ in RP) Wednesday, handsome
-dg before e, i, or y	/dʒ/	ledger		
f, -ff	/f/	fine, off	/v/	of
g before e, i, y, ae, or oe	/dʒ/	gentle, magic, gyrate, page, college, algae (GA)	/g/ /ʒ/	get, give, girl, beg, algae (RP) collage, gigue
g, -gg	/g/	go, great, guest, stagger	/dʒ/ /gdʒ/	margarine, suggest, exaggerate suggest
gh-	/g/	ghost, ghastly		

-gh	Ø	dough, high	/f/ /x/ or /k/ /g/, /k/, or /x/ /p/	laugh, enough lough ugh! hiccough
-ght	/t/	right, daughter, bought	/ft/	draught, laughter
-gm	/m/	diaphragm, phlegm		
gn-	/n/	gnome, gnaw		
-gn	/n/	signing, impugned, champagne	/gn/	signify, repugnant
h	/h/	he, alcohol	Ø	vehicle, honest, hono(u)r, piranha
h- after ex	Ø	exhibit, exhaust	/h/	exhale
j-	/dʒ/	jump, ajar	/j/ /ʒ/ /h/ Ø	Hallelujah Jean jalapeno, fajita Marijuana
k, -kk, kh	/k/	key, bake, trekking, sheikh		
kn-	/n/	knee, knock		
l,	/l/	line, valve, bulk	Ø	halve, balk, salmon
-ll-	/l/	valley	/j/	tortilla
m, -mm	/m/	mine, hammer		
-mb	/m/	climbed, comber, numbing	/mb/	imbed, somber, number
mn-	/n/	mnemonic		
-mn	/m/	hymn, autumn, condemner	/mn/	hymnal, alumni, chimney
n, -nn	/n/	nice, funny		
-n before /k/ or /ch/	/ŋ/	link, plonk, anchor		
-ng	/ŋ/	long, kingly, hanger, singer, clingy	/ŋg/ /ndʒ/	anger, finger danger, ginger, dingy
p, -pp	/p/	pill, happy, soup, corpse, script	Ø	coup, receipt
(p)ph	/f/	photograph, sapphire	/v/	Stephen
pn-	/n/	pneumonia, pneumatic	/pn/	apnea
ps-	/s/	psyche, psalm, pshaw	/ps/ Ø	psst corps
pt-	/t/	ptomaine, ptarmigan, receipt		
q	/k/	Iraq, Iqaluit		
r-, -rr	/r/	ray, parrot	Ø in non-rhotic dialects such as RP,	iron
rh, -rrh	/r/	rhyme, diarrhoea		
-r, -rr, -rrh when followed by a consonant	Ø in non-rhotic dialects such as RP, /r/ in rhotic dialects such as GA	bar, bare, catarrh		
s, -ss	/s/	song, ask, message, misled	/z/ /ʃ/ /ʒ/ Ø	scissors, dessert, dissolve, Islam sugar, tissue, aggression vision islet, aisle, debris
-s- between vowel sounds (see also "se" below)	/z/	rose, prison	/s/	basis
word-final -s morpheme after a voiceless sound	/s/	pets, shops		
word-final -s morpheme after a lenis sound	/z/	beds, magazines		
sc- before e, i or y	/s/	scene, scepter, scissors, scythe	/sk/ /ʃ/	sceptic, scirrhous fascism

sch-	/sk/	<b>school, scheme, schizo</b>	/ʃ/ /s/	<b>schedule</b> (also /sk/), <b>schist</b> <b>schism</b> (also /sk/)
sh	/ʃ/	<b>shin</b>		
t, -tt	/t/	<b>ten, bitter,</b> <b>cation,</b> <b>chaste, wallet</b>	/ʃ/ /tʃ/ Ø	<b>ratio, Martian</b> <b>question, bastion</b> <b>castle, chasten, ballet</b>
-tch	/tʃ/	<b>batch, kitchen</b>		
th	/θ/ /ð/	<b>thin, both,</b> <b>the, bothers</b>	/t/ /tθ/ /th/ Ø	<b>thyme</b> <b>eighth</b> <b>outhouse, potherb</b> <b>asthma</b>
v, -vv	/v/	<b>vine, savvy</b>		
w	/w/	<b>sward, swerve, wale</b>	Ø /uː/	<b>sword, answer, gunwale</b> <b>cwm</b>
wh- before o	/h/	<b>who, whole</b>	/w/	<b>whopping, whorl</b>
wh-	/w/, (/hw/ in dialects with this phoneme)	<b>wheel</b>		
wr-	/r/	<b>wrong, wrist</b>		
x-	/z/	<b>xylophone</b>		
-xc before e or i	/ks/	<b>excellent, excited</b>		
-xc	/ksk/	<b>excuse</b>		
-x	/ks/	<b>box, exit</b> (in some dialects)	/gz/ /gʒ/ /kʃ/ Ø	<b>exit</b> (in some dialects) <b>luxury</b> <b>anxious</b> <b>faux-pas</b>
y-	/j/	<b>yes</b>		
z, -zz	/z/	<b>zoo, pizzazz</b>	/ts/ Ø	<b>schizophrenic, pizza</b> <b>rendezvous</b>

#### Combinations of consonant and vowel letters

Spelling	Major value (IPA)	Examples of major value	Minor values (IPA)	Examples of minor value	Exceptions
aer	/ɛə(r)/	<b>aerial, aeroplane</b>			
word-final -age suffix	/ɪdʒ/	<b>damage, bondage</b>			
ah	/ɑː/	<b>blah</b>			
air(e)	/ɛə(r)/	<b>cairn, millionaire, dairy</b>			
al	/æɪ/	<b>pal, talcum, algae, alp</b>	/ɔːl/	<b>bald, falcon</b>	
alf	/ɑːf/ (RP) /æf/ (GA)	<b>calf, half</b>	/æɪ/	<b>alfalfa, malfeasance</b>	/ɔlf/ <b>palfrey</b>
alk	/ɔːk/	<b>walk, chalking, talkative</b>	/æɪk/	<b>alkaline, grimalkin</b>	/ɔlk/ <b>balkanise</b>
all	/ɔːl/ /æɪ/	<b>call, fallout, smaller</b> <b>shall, callus, fallow</b>	/ɔl/ /(ə)l/	<b>wallet, swallow</b> <b>allow, dialled</b>	/ɛl/ (GA) <b>marshmallow,</b> <b>pall-mall</b>
alm	/ɑːm/	<b>calm, almond, palmistry</b>	/æɪm/ /ɔːlm/	<b>dalmatian, salmonella</b> <b>almanac, almost</b>	/æm/ <b>salmon</b> /(ə)lm/ <b>signalman</b>
alt	/ɔlt/ (RP) /ɔlt/ (GA)	<b>alter, malt, salty, basalt</b>	/æɪlt/ /ɔːlt/	<b>alto, shalt, saltation</b> <b>altar, asphalt</b>	/ɔlt/ <b>gestalt</b> (GA) /(ə)lt/ <b>royalty, penalty</b>
ange	/eɪndʒ/	<b>strange, change, danger</b>			
aoh, oh	/oʊ/	<b>pharaoh, oh</b>			
ar (before vowel)	/ɛə(r)/	<b>uncaring, wary, various</b>	/ær/	<b>arid</b>	
ar (before consonant)	/ɑː(r)/	<b>bar, cart</b>			/ɛə(r)/ <b>scarce</b>

are	/ɛə(r)/	cares, glare			/ɑ:(r)/ are
arr before vowel	/æɪr/	marry, carrying	/ɑ:/	marring	
word-final -ary suffix	/ɛri/	ordinary, necessary			
ayr, ayer, ayor	/ɛə(r)/	layer, mayor			
unstressed ci- before a vowel	/ʃ/	special, gracious	/si/	species	
-cqu	/kw/	acquaint, acquire	/k/	lacquer, racquet	
ear before consonant	/ɜ:(r)/	earth, learn, early	/ɑ:(r)/ /ɪə(r)/	hearty, hearth yearly, beard	
ear elsewhere	/ɪə(r)/	hearing, clear	/ɛə(r)/	bear, pear	
word-final -ed morpheme after /t/ or /d/*	/ɪd/	waited			
word-final -ed morpheme after a voiceless sound*	/t/	topped, surfed	/ɛd/	biped, unfed	
word-final -ed morpheme after a lenis sound*	/d/	climbed, failed, ordered	/ɛd/	imbed, misled, infrared	
eer	/ɪə(r)/	cheering, beer, eerie			
eh	/eɪ/	eh			
eir	/ɪə(r)/	weird, weir	/ɛə(r)/	heir, their	
er (stressed, before vowel)	/ɪə(r)/	serious, series	/ɛr/	heron, merit	
er (stressed, before consonant)	/ɜ:(r)/	herd, kerb	/ɑ:(r)/	Kerr, sergeant	
er (unstressed)	/ə(r)/ or /ɜ:(r)/	walker, juggernaut			
ere	/ɪə(r)/	here	/ɛə(r)/	therefore, werewolf	/ɜ:(r)/ were
err before vowel	/ɛr/	errand, merry	/ɜ:(r)/	referral	
word-final -es morpheme**	/ɪz/	washes, boxes			
eur	/ʊə(r)/	amateur, voyeur			
unstressed ex- before a vowel or h	/ɪgz/	exist, examine, exhaust	/ɛks/	exhale	
unstressed -ften	/fən/	soften, often			
gu- before a	/gw/	bilingual, guano, language	/g/ /gj/	guard bilingual	
gu- before e or i	/g/	guest, guide	/gw/	linguistics	
word-final -gue	/g/	catalogue, plague, colleague	/gju/	argue, redargue, ague, Montague	/gweɪ/ segue
iar (stressed)	/aɪə(r)/	liar, fiar, diary	/iɑ:(r)/	caviar, matriarch	
iar (unstressed)	/ɪə(r)/	familiar, billiards			
ier	/ɪə(r)/	pier, fierce, bulkier	/aɪə(r)/	replier, pliers	
ior (stressed)	/aɪə(r)/	prior			
ior (unstressed), iour	/ɪə(r)/	exterior, superior behaviour			
ir (before vowel)	/aɪə(r)/	firing, enquiry	/ɪr/	Sirius	
ir (elsewhere)	/ɜ:(r)/	bird, fir			/ɪə(r)/ menhir
ire	/aɪə(r)/	fire, inquire			
irr before vowel	/ɪr/	cirrus, mirror	/ɜ:(r)/	stirrer	
word-final -le after a consonant	/əl/	little, table			
-(a)isle	/aɪəəl/	aisle, isle, enisle, lisle			
word-final -ngue	/ŋ/	tongue, harangue, meringue (dessert)	/ŋgeɪ/	dengue (also /ŋgi/), distingué, merengue (music/dance)	
oar	/ɔə(r)/	boar, coarse			

oir	/waɪr/	reservoir, memoir			/waɪə(r)/ choir
old	/oʊld/	blindfold, older, bold	/əld/	scaffold, kobold (also /bld/)	
olk	/oʊk/	yolk, folk			
oll	/bl/	doll, follow, colletc., holler	/oʊl/	roll, stroller, polling, tollway	
olm	/blm/	olm, dolmen	/oʊlm/	enrolment, holmium	/oʊm/ holm (oak)
ong	/ɔːŋ/	wrong, strong, song	/ɑːŋ/	Congress, congregation	
oor	/ʊə(r)/	door, mooring			
or (stressed)	/ɔː(r)/	ford, boring	/ɜː(r)/ /ɔr/	word, work, worst moral, forage	
or (unstressed)	/ə(r)/	author			
ore	/ɔː(r)/	more, deplore			
orr before vowel	/ɔr/	torrent, sorry			
our (stressed)	/ʊə(r)/	tourist, contour	/oʊə(r)/ /aʊə(r)/ /ɜː(r)/	pour hour, our, devour journey, courteous	/ʊr/ courier /ʌr/ courage
our (unstressed)	/ə(r)/	colour, neighbour			
owr, ower	/aʊər/	dowry, tower, flowery	/oʊər/	grower, slower	
qu-	/kw/	queen, quick	/k/	liquor, mosquito	
qua-	/kwɒ/	quantity, quad	/kwæ/	quango	
quar- before consonant	/kwɔː(r)/	quarter, quart			
word-final -que	/k/	mosque, bisque	/keɪ/	risqué	/kjuː/ barbeque
word-final -re after a consonant	/ər/	metre, fibre			
ro	/rɔ/	rod	/rou/	roll	/jə(r)/ iron
unstressed sci- before a vowel	/ʃ/	conscience	/si/	omniscient (RP)	
sci- (stressed)	/saɪ/	science			
-scle	/səl/	corpuscle, muscle			
-se (noun)	/s/	house, mouse			
-se (verb)	/z/	house, raise	/s/	chase	
unstressed -si before a vowel	/ʃ/	expansion	/ɜ/	division, illusion	/zi/ physiology, busier, caesium flimsiest /si/ tarsier
unstressed -ssi before a vowel	/ʃ/	mission	/si/	potassium, dossier	
unstressed -sten	/sən/	listen, fasten	/stən/	tungsten, Austen, existent	
unstressed -stle	/səl/	whistle, rustle			
unstressed -sure	/ʒər/	leisure, treasure			
unstressed -ti before a vowel	/ʃ/	nation, ambitious	/ɜ/	equation	/ti/ patio, /taɪ/ cation
unstressed -ture	/tʃər/	nature, picture			
tw	/tw/	twin, between			/t/ two
ur (before vowel)	/jʊə(r)/	purity, curing			
ur (before consonant)	/ɜː(r)/	curdle			
ure	/jʊə(r)/	cure, pure			
urr before vowel	/ʌr/	hurry, current			
wa-	/wɒ/	watch, want, warrior	/wæ/	wacky	
word-initial wor-	/wɜ(r)/	work, worse			
war- before consonant	/wɔː(r)/	warning, warts, dwarf			
yr (before vowel)	/aɪər/	gyration, thyroid	/ɪr/	myriad, pyramid	

yr (before consonant)	/ɜː(r)/	myrtle, myrrh			
yre	/aɪə(r)/	pyre, lyre			
unstressed -zure	/ɜər/	seizure, azure			

\* There is no way to tell if it is the morpheme or an integral part of the word. Compare **snaked** and **naked**.

\*\* Same as above; compare the two pronunciations of **axes**.

Small text indicates rare words. Loans words: **SP** for Spanish, **FR** for French.

### Sound to spelling correspondences

The following table shows for each sound, the various spelling patterns used to denote it. The symbol "... " stands for an intervening consonant. The letter sequences are in order of frequency with the most common first. Some of these patterns are very rare or unique, such as *au* for the [æ] sound in *laugh* (some accents). In some cases, the spellings shown are found in only one known English word (such as "mh" for /m/, or "yrh" for /ɜr/).

Consonants		
IPA	Spelling	Examples
/p/	p, pp, gh	<b>pill</b> , happy, hiccough
/b/	b, bb	<b>bit</b> , rabbit
/t/	t, tt, ed, pt, th, ct	<b>ten</b> , <b>hitter</b> , topped, pterodactyl, <b>thyme</b> , ctenoid
/d/	d, dd, ed, dh, t (in some dialects), tt (in some dialects)	<b>dive</b> , ladder, failed, <b>dharma</b> , waiter, flatter
/g/	g, gg, gue, gh	<b>go</b> , stagger, catalogue, <b>ghost</b>
/k/	c, k, ck, ch, cc, qu, cu, que, kk, kh, q	<b>cat</b> , <b>key</b> , tack, <b>chord</b> , account, liquor, biscuit, mosque, trekker, <b>khan</b> , burqa
/m/	m, mm, mb, mn, mh, gm, chm	<b>mine</b> , hammer, climb, hymn, <b>mho</b> , diaphragm, drachm
/n/	n, nn, kn, gn, pn, nh, cn, mn	<b>nice</b> , funny, <b>knee</b> , <b>gnome</b> , pneumonia, piranha, cnidarian, <b>mnemonic</b>
/ŋ/	ng, n, ngue	<b>sing</b> , link, tongue
/r/	r, rr, wr, rh, rrh	<b>ray</b> , parrot, wrong, <b>rhyme</b> , diarrh(oea)
/f/	f, ph, ff, gh, pph, u	<b>fine</b> , physical, off, laugh, sapphire, lieutenant (Br)
/v/	v, vv, f, ph, w (in some dialects)	<b>vine</b> , savvy, of, Stephen, Diwali
/θ/	th, chth, phth, tth, fth (in some dialects)	<b>thin</b> , chthonic, phthisis, Matthew, twelfth
/ð/	th	<b>them</b> , breathe
/s/	s, c, ss, sc, st, ps, sch (in some dialects), cc, se, ce, z (in some dialects)	song, city, mess, <b>scene</b> , listen, psychology, <b>schism</b> , flaccid, horse, juice, citizen
/z/	s, z, x, zz, ss, ze, c (in some dialects)	has, zoo, xylophone, fuzz, scissors, breeze, electricity
/ʃ/	sh, ti, ci, ssi, si, ss, ch, s, sci, ce, sch, sc	<b>shin</b> , nation, special, mission, expansion, tissue, machine, sugar, conscience, ocean, <b>schmooze</b> , crescendo
/ʒ/	si, s, g, z, j, ti, sh (in some dialects)	division, leisure, <b>genre</b> , seizure, jeté, equation, Pershing
/tʃ/	ch, t, tch, ti, c, cc, tsch, cz	<b>chin</b> , nature, batch, bastion (some accents), cello, bocce, putsch, Czech
/dʒ/	g, j, dg, dge, d, di, gi, ge, gg	magic, jump, judgment, bridge, graduate, soldier, Belgian, dungeon, exaggerate
/h/	h, wh, j, ch	<b>he</b> , who, fajita, chutzpah
/j/	y, i, j, ll, e	yes, onion, hallelujah, tortilla, eoarchean
/l/	l, ll, lh	line, hallo, Lhasa
/w/	w, u, o, ou, wh (in most dialects)	<b>we</b> , persuade, choir, <b>Ouija</b> board, what
/hw/	wh (in some dialects)	<b>wheel</b>

Vowels		
IPA	Spelling	Examples
/iː/	e, ea, ee, e...e, ae, ei, i...e, ie, eo, oe, ie...e, ay, ey, i, y, oi, ue, ey, a	be, beach, bee, cede, Caesar, deceit, machine, field, people, amoeba, hygiene, quay, key, ski, city, chamois, Portuguese, geyser (Br), karaoke
/ɪ/	i, y, ui, e, ee, ie, o, u, a, ei, ee, ia, ea, i...e, ai, oe	bit, myth, build, pretty, been (some accents), sieve, women, busy, damage, counterfeit, carriage, mileage, medicine, bargain, oedema

/uː/	oo, u, o, u...e, ou, ew, ue, o...e, ui, eu, oeu, oe, ough, wo, ioux, ieu, oup, w	tool, luminous, who, flute, soup, jewel, true, lose, fruit, maneuver (US), manoeuvre (Br), canoe, through, two, Sioux, lieutenant (US), coup, cwm
/ʊ/	oo, u, o, oo...e, or, ou, oul	look, full, wolf, gooseberry, worsted, courier, should
/eɪ/	a, a...e, aa, ae, ai, ai...e, aig, aigh, al, ao, au, ay, e (é), e...e, ea, eg, ei, ei...e, eig, eigh, ee (ée), eh, er, es, et, ey, ez, ie, oeh	bass, rate, quaalude, reggae, rain, cocaine, arraign, straight, Ralph (sometimes in Br), gaol (Br), gauge, pay, ukulele (café), crepe, steak, thegn, veil, beige, reign, eight, matinee (soirée), eh, dossier, demesne, ballet, obey, chez, lingerie (US), boehmite
/ə/	a, e, o, u, ai, ou, eig, y, ah, ough, ae, oi	another, anthem, awesome, atrium, mountain, callous, foreign, beryl, Messiah, borough (Br), Michael, porpoise
/oʊ/	o, o...e, oa, ow, ou, oe, oo, eau, oh, ew, au, aoh, ough, eo	so, bone, boat, know, soul, foe, brooch, beau, oh, sew, mauve, pharaoh, furlough, yeoman
/ɛ/	e, ea, a, ae, ai, ay, ea...e, ei, eo, ie, ieu, u, ue, oe	met, weather, many, aesthetic, said, says, cleanse, heifer, jeopardy, friend, lieutenant (Br), bury, guess, foetid
/æ/	a, ai, al, au, i	hand, plaid, salmon, laugh (some accents), meringue
/ʌ/	u, o, o...e, oe, ou, oo, wo	sun, son, come, does, touch, flood, twopennce
/ɔː/	a, au, aw, ough, augh, o, oa, oo, al, uo, u, ao	fall, author, jaw, bought, caught, cord, broad, door, walk, fluorine (Br), sure (some accents), extraordinary
/ɒ/	o, a, eau, ach, au, ou	lock, watch, bureaucracy, yacht, sausage, cough
/ɑː/	a, ah, aa, i	father, blah, baa, lingerie (US)
/aɪ/	ae, ai, aie, aille, ais, ay, aye, ei, eigh, ey, eye, i, i...e, ia, ie, ic, ig, igh, is, oi, ui, uy, uye, y, y...e, ye	maestro, kraft, shanghaied, canaille (RP), aisle, kayak, aye, heist, height, geyser (US), eye, mic, fine, diaper, tie, indict, sign, high, isle, choir, guide, buy, guyed, tryst, type, bye
/ɔɪ/	oi, oy, awy, uoy oy...e, eu	foil, toy, lawyer, buoy, gargoyle, Freudian
/aʊ/	ou, ow, ough, au	out, now, bough, tau
/ɑr/	aar, ar, are, arre, ear, er, our, uar, arrh	bazaar, car, are, bizarre, heart, sergeant, our (some accents), guard, catarrh
/eə/	aar, aer, air, aire, ar, are, ayer, ayor, ear, eir, er, ere, err, erre, ey're, e'er	Aaron, aerial, hair, millionaire, ware, vary, prayer, mayor, bear, heir, stationery (some accents), where, err (variant), parterre, they're, e'er
/ɛər/	ear, eer, eir, eor, ere, ers, e're, ier, iere, ir	ear, beer, weir, theory (US), here, revers, we're, pier, premiere, menhir
/ɜr/	er, or, ur, ir, yr, our, ear, err, eur, yrrh, ar, oeu, olo	fern, worst, turn, thirst, myrtle, journey, earth, err, amateur, myrrh, grammar, hors d'oeuvre, colonel
/juː/	u, u...e, eu, ue, iew, eau, ieu, uetue, ui, ewe, ew	music*, use, feud, cue, view, beautiful*, adieu*, queue, nuisance*, ewe, few, * in some dialects, see yod-dropping

## See also

- English language
- False etymology
- Spelling bee

### Conventions of English spelling

- English plural
- I before E except after C
- Three letter rule

### Variant spelling

- American and British English spelling differences
- Internet spelling
- Misspelling
  - Satiric misspelling
  - Sensational spelling
- Spelling of disc

### Phonetic orthographic systems

- English spelling reform
- Basic Roman spelling of English
- Interspel
- Shavian alphabet

### Graphemes

- Apostrophe
- Eth
- Long s
- Thorn (letter)

### Words in English

- Lists of English words
- Classical compound
- Ghoti
- Initial-stress-derived noun

### English phonology

- List of English homographs
- Regional accents of English
  - IPA chart for English dialects
- Weak form and strong form

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- ↑ English language. (2010). In Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved November 23, 2010, from Encyclopædia Britannica Online: http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/188048/English-language
- ↑ Often this is because of the historical pronunciation of each word where, over time, two separate sounds become the same but the different spellings remain: *plane* used to be pronounced ˈpl̩eːn, but the e: sound merged with the /eɪ/ sound in *plain*, making *plain* and *plane* homonyms.

4. <sup>^</sup> Rollins 2004: 16-19; Chomsky & Halle 1968; Chomsky 1970
5. <sup>^</sup> Chomsky & Halle 1968:54
6. <sup>^</sup> Chomsky 1970:294; Rollins 2004:17
7. <sup>^</sup> Rollins 2004:17-19
8. <sup>^</sup> Included in Webster's Third New International Dictionary.1981
9. <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> *Righting the Mother Tongue: From Olde English to Email, the Twisted Story of English Spelling*, by David Wolman. Collins, ISBN 9780061369254. [1] (<http://www.rightingthemothertongue.com/>)

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## External links

- Transcription Writer (<http://www.forcemem.com/Download%20Transcription%20Writer.htm>) freeware program is designed to write English words with the help of phonetic symbols
- Rules for English Spelling: Adding Suffixes (<http://www.kwiznet.com/p/takeQuiz.php?ChapterID=10015&CurriculumID=26>) , QU Rule (<http://www.kwiznet.com/p/takeQuiz.php?ChapterID=10016&CurriculumID=26>) , i before e (<http://www.kwiznet.com/p/takeQuiz.php?ChapterID=10017&CurriculumID=26>) , Silent e (<http://www.kwiznet.com/p/takeQuiz.php?ChapterID=10018&CurriculumID=26>) , 'er' vs. 'or' (<http://www.kwiznet.com/p/takeQuiz.php?ChapterID=10021&CurriculumID=26>)
- White Paper (<http://www.espinde.org/whitepaper.pdf>) Research based Tutoring of English Spelling
- Hou tu pranownse English (<http://zompist.com/spell.html>) describes rules which predict a word's pronunciation from its spelling with 85% accuracy
- Free spelling information (<http://www.thephonicspage.org/On%20Spelling/onspellinglinks.html>) and Free spelling lessons in QuickTime movie format (<http://www.thephonicspage.org/On%20Spelling/spellinglessons1.html>) at The Phonics Page (<http://www.thephonicspage.org/>) .
- Spellcheckonline.com (<http://www.spellcheckonline.com/>) A free English online spell checker with instant feedback and error explanations

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Categories: English spelling | English language | Language orthographies

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**1040878**

4.3.2012

**151** **Date of the registration**

08.02.2010

**180** **Expected expiration date of the registration/renewal**

08.02.2020

**270** **Language of the application**

English

### **Current Status**

**732** **Name and address of the holder of the registration**

Gilltec GmbH Zum Kesselort 53 24149 Kiel Germany

**812** **Contracting State or Contracting Organization in the territory of which the holder has a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment**

DE (Germany)

**842** **Legal nature of the holder (legal entity) and State, and, where applicable, territory within that State where the legal entity is organized**

Company with limited liability, Germany

**740** **Name and address of the representative**

GLAWE DELFS MOLL Patent- und Rechtsanwälte Rothenbaumchaussee 58 20148 Hamburg Germany

**770** **Name and address of the previous holder**

Transcodent GmbH & Co. KG Oderstraße 60 Neumünster Germany

**540** **Mark**

Appliquator

**541** **Reproduction of the mark where the mark is represented in standard characters**

**550** **Indication relating to the nature or kind of mark**

The words contained in the mark have no meaning

**511** **International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Nice Classification) - NCL(9)**

- 01 Adhesives for industrial purposes, containers and application instruments adapted for the aforementioned substances.
- 03 Cosmetics; bleaching preparations for cosmetic purposes, in particular bleaching preparations for teeth; dental bleaching gels, containers and application instruments adapted for the aforementioned substances.
- 05 Chemical preparations for dental purposes; dental cements; teeth filling material; dentine and enamel adhesive (dental mastics); dental lacquer; containers and application instruments adapted for the aforementioned substances.
- 10 Dental instruments, in particular application instruments for dental substances, for example adhesives, adhesion promoters, caustics, desensitizer, haemostatic solutions, cavity under fillings, dental lacquer, indicator fluids, fissure sealings, bleaching preparations, the aforementioned substances, in particular in fluid form or gel form.

**822** **Basic registration**

DE (Germany), 05.11.2009, 30 2009 050 262.5/10

**300** **Data relating to priority under the Paris Convention and other data relating to registration of the mark in the country of origin**

DE (Germany), 19.08.2009, 30 2009 050 262.5/10

- 832 **Designation(s) under the Madrid Protocol**  
EM (European Community), US (United States of America)
- 834 **Designation(s) under the Madrid Protocol by virtue of Article 9sexies**  
CH (Switzerland)
- 527 **Indications regarding use requirements**  
US (United States of America)

## **Registration**

- 450 **Publication number and date**  
2010/24 Gaz, 08.07.2010
- 832 **Designation(s) under the Madrid Protocol**  
EM (European Community), US (United States of America)
- 834 **Designation(s) under the Madrid Protocol by virtue of Article 9sexies**  
CH (Switzerland)
- 527 **Indications regarding use requirements**  
US (United States of America)
- 580 **Date of recording (date of notification from which the time limit to notify the refusal starts)**  
01.07.2010

## **862 Partial provisional refusal of protection**

- US (United States of America)
- 450 **Publication number and date**  
2010/29 Gaz, 12.08.2010
- 862 **Partial provisional refusal of protection**  
As from November 14, 2005, provisional refusals indicate only whether they are total or partial, without listing the goods and services, or the classes, affected or not affected.
- Date of notification**  
20.07.2010
- Date of receipt by the International Bureau**  
14.07.2010

## **Ex Officio examination completed but opposition or observations by third parties still possible, under Rule 18bis(1)**

- EM (European Community)
- 450 **Publication number and date**  
2010/29 Gaz, 12.08.2010
- Opposition end date**  
02.04.2011

## **Statement of grant of protection made under Rule 18ter(1)**

- EM (European Community)
- 450 **Publication number and date**  
2011/18 Gaz, 26.05.2011

## **Statement of grant of protection made under Rule 18ter(1)**

- CH (Switzerland)
- 450 **Publication number and date**

2011/27 Gaz, 28.07.2011

**Ex Officio examination completed but opposition or observations by third parties still possible, under Rule 18bis(1)**

US (United States of America)

450

**Publication number and date**

2011/50 Gaz, 05.01.2012