

PRONUNCIATION RULES (NEF ADVANCED p. 15)

1 hear /eə/

- Rule:

the letter **h** is nearly always pronounced /h/

- Common exceptions: **heir, honest, honour, hour, exhausted, rhythm.**

2 power /'paʊə/

- Rule:

the letters **ow** are often pronounced /əʊ/ as in **blow, window, below**, but are also often pronounced /aʊ/ as in **frown, towel, now**.

- Occasionally, the same letters have different pronunciations according to the meaning

e.g. **row /raʊ/** = argument

row /rəʊ/ = a line of seats

3 river /'rɪvə/

- Rule:

the letter **i + consonant + e** is usually /ai/

- Common exceptions: **river, give, live (the verb), since, liver, etc.**

4 whose /hu:z/

- Rule:

the letters **wh** are nearly always /w/, but occasionally /h/

e.g. **whose, whole, who**

5 All the same pronunciation

- Rule:

the letter **j** is always pronounced /dʒ/

6 machine /mə'ʃi:n/

- Rule:

the letters **ch** are

- occasionally pronounced /ʃ/ as in *machine, chef, cliché*,
- or /k/ as in *chemist, architect*,
- but nearly always /tʃ/

7 sure /ʃʊ:/

- Rule:
the letter **s** *at the beginning of a word* is nearly always /s/
- Common exceptions: *sugar, sure*, where the s is /ʃ/.

8 All the same pronunciation

- Rule:
the letters **aw** are always pronounced /ɔ:/

9 work /wɜ:k/

- Rule:
the letters **or** are usually /ɔ:/, but occasionally /ɜ:/
e.g. *work, word, world*

10 require /ri'kwaɪə/

- Rule:
the letters **ir** are nearly always /ɜ:/, but are pronounced /aɪə/ when followed by an **e**.
e.g. *acquire, require, admire*