

Spelling & Phonics Patterns

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Adapted from the Orton Gillingham Program

[Vowel Charts](#) - short and long sound patterns

Reminders:

- Reading, sounding out words: break apart into syllables, then break apart each syllable into sounds. Each syllable has one vowel sound (usually, but always has a vowel - buc-**kle**)
- Writing: say the sound as you write the letter(s); with learned words (words that are not spelled phonetically) say the letter

Sounds

- Consonants
 - Q (queen): always with U because they are best friends
 - S (snake): second sound /z/ between 2 vowels
 - C (cat): second sound /s/ when it's followed by **e**, **i**, or **y** “**C**enter **C**ity had a **C**yclone”
 - G (game): second sound /j/ when it's followed by **e**, **i**, or **y** “**G**entle **G**inger went to the **G**ym”
 - Y (yellow): second sound is **long i** (**1 syllable** word: my); third sound is **long e** (**2 syllable** word: Shel-by); fourth sound is **short i** (middle of a closed syllable: gym)
- Letter combinations
 - **ck**: short/short (end of a short word, after a short vowel; duck)
 - **(Final ch) tch**: t is silent; short/short (end of a short word, after a short vowel - fetch; use ch after a consonant or long vowel - lunch, peach)
 - **(Final J) dge**: d is silent; **short/short** - edge; use **ge** after a consonant or a long vowel - lunge, huge
 - **ed**: shows past tense; 3 sounds: **d** (most), **t** (after s, d, f, p, ch, sh), **ed syllable** (after d & t)
 - **all**: end of 1 syllable words - ball
- Digraphs (2 letters that make a new sound): sh, ch, ph, wh (?), th (two sounds: thumb; then - with vibration)
- Vowel + Blends:
 - ank, ink, onk, unk
 - ang, ing, ong, ung
- Short vowels: a (apple), e (egg), i (itch), o (octopus), u (up); short o - aw, au
- Long vowels (say the name of the vowel): **magic e** (v_e); at the **end of an open syllable**
 - A: **ai** (middle, train); **ay** (end, day)
 - E: **ee** (middle, sheet); **ea** (beginning/middle, eat)
 - I: **igh** (usually with t: light)
 - O: **oa** (middle, boat), **ow** (snow)
 - U: **ew** (new), **oo** (school)
- Other vowel teams
 - **oi** (middle, soil) **oy** (end, boy)
 - ar (Bossy R: car)
 - er (Bossy R; fern); ir (first); ur (burn); ar (followed by l: dollar); or (followed by t: actor)
 - or (Bossy R; for)
 - ea (eat-bread: short e-long e)
 - ow (snow-plow; long o-ouch sound; end of the word, or followed by l or n - own, owl)
 - ou (ouch sound)
 - aw (short o; end of the word or followed by l or n - lawn, shawl)
 - au (short o; beginning/middle, auto)

Syllables

Types:

- **Closed:** end in a consonant, **short vowel** sound (bag)
- **Magic e:** **long vowel** sound (bike)
- **Open:** **long vowel** sound; ends in a vowel (**be**-low)
- **Consonant -le:** **silent e** (buc-**kle**)

Words:

- **Rabbit:** two closed syllables (rab-bit; **vc-cv**) - two short vowels, split between the consonants
- **Reptile:** closed syllable, magic e (rep-tile; **vc-cv**) - short vowel, long vowel; split between the consonants
- **Penny:** closed syllable, y=long e (pen-ny; **vc-cv**) - short vowel, y=long e
- **Tulip:** open syllable, either closed syllable or y=long e (hu-man, ba-by; tuny; **v-cv**) - long vowel sound, either long e or short vowel sound
- **Candle:** closed syllable, consonant -le (can-dle)
- **Maple:** open syllable, consonant -le (ma-ple)

Learned Words: don't follow the rule (memorize: say the letter, not the sound)

- Give, live
- Have
- Above
- Very
- Should, would, could
- Said, says
- Who, whose
- Where, there (have here inside)
- Gone (short o), done (short u)
- Wear, tear, bear, pear
- Poor (sad eyes), pour (r pours into the u)
- Busy
- eye

Spelling Rules

- no English word ends in v (ve), j (ge), q (qu)
- FLOSS: words that end in F, L, S, Z: double the F, L, S, Z in short words after a vowel (off, fell, kiss)
- -ld, -nd, -st: in one syllable words, i and o make the long sound when followed by these blends (fold, find, most)

Long Vowel Sounds

easy to say → name difficult to spell → 2 vowels

a

e

i

o

u






a_e lake	ee tree	i_e bike	oa boat	ew new
ai train	ea eat	y fly	ow blow	ue blue
ay play	y happy	igh night	a_e note	u-e June
a. baby	e. below	ind kind	old cold	oo school
		i. lion	o. no	u. music

* v. vowel at the end of an open syllable

Vowel Sounds

a e i o u

- ① Short vowel sounds - easy to spell
difficult to say

a	e	i	o	u
apple	elephant	igloo	octopus	umbrella
				

- ② Long vowel sounds - say the name

- ③ Bossy R

/ar/	/er/	/or/	/air/
<div>ar</div> car	<div>er ir ur wor</div> fern bird burn word	<div>or ore</div> for more	<div>air ear are</div> fair bear care

- ④ ouch sound

ow
ou

 flower
out

- ⑤ look sound

oo
u

 book
push

- ⑥ boy sound

oi
oy

 soil
toy

Soft c = /s/	
<div>ce ci cy</div>	face city bicycle
Soft g = /j/	
<div>ge gi gy</div>	large giant gym