

VOWELS: learning the first sounds

In a closed syllable (CVC), the vowel makes “sound number one.” Teachers, please don’t call this the short sound, as that’s not linguistically accurate and can confuse more than it clarifies.

	a	e	i	o	u
	at bat	egg beg	it sit	on off	up cup
	cat rat	set met	is this	hot top	sun run
	hat Sam	Ben Ted	kiss fish	not sock	fun bug
	pan ran	fed let	bit lip	cop dog	rug luck
	bag rag	tell pen	rip sick	Tom lock	duck mug
	bad Pam	bed red	Tim big	mom frog	truck bum

In an open syllable (CV) or as a member of a vowel team, such as with silent E, the vowel says its name or makes “sound number two” while the other vowel in the team is silent.

For the same reason as above, refrain from calling this the long sound.

	a_e, ai	e_e, ee, ea	i_e, igh	o_e, oa	u_e
	namee	Pete	time	home	duke
	date	see	bike	note	Luke
	late	feet	like	boat	cute
	mail	three	night	goat	tune
	tail	tea	right	no	dune
	pain	meat	light	go	