

DIRECTIONS

FOR THE

PRONUNCIATION OF WORDS.

The principal sounds of the vowels are the *first or long*, and the *second or short*.

Examples of the first or long sound.

a in make, late, grace.
e in me, mete, meter.
i in pine, bind, strife.
o in note, hold, port.
u in true, duty, rude.
y in dry, defy, imply.

Examples of the second or short sound.

a in mat, ban, grand.
e in bet, men, send.
i in bit, pin, miss.
o in not, boss, bond.
u in dun, must, refund.
y in pity, cycle, synonym.

The principal things to be regarded in learning the pronunciation of English words, are the accent and the sound of the vowel of the accented syllable.

Rule I. This mark ' called an accent, designates the accented syllable.

II. The accent placed immediately after a vowel indicates the vowel to have its first or long sound, either at the end or in the middle of a syllable; as in sa'cred, pre'cept, ri'ot, po'et, mu'sic, cy'press; de'gra'de, re'ple'te, di'vide, ex'plo'de, in'tru'de.

III. A horizontal mark or point over a vowel shows it to be long, and when no accent is found in the word, this mark designates the accented syllable; as in discourse, en'croach, bes'tow, en'roll, cour'ser, suit'able.

IV. An accent placed immediately after a consonant, or combination of consonants in the same syllable, indicates that the vowel of that syllable, if unpointed, is short; as in hab'it, ten'tet, con'duct, ul'cer, syn'bol; adapt', intend', predict', despond', enroll', courser'.

Exceptions.

1. A pointed vowel has the sound designated by the point or points; as in full'ness, al'ter'able, book'ish, convey'.

2. *a* before *ll*, *ld* and *lk*, in monosyllables or accented syllables, has its broad sound like *an*; as in befall', bald'ness, walk'ing.

3. *o* before *ll* is long; as in enroll'.

V. An accent immediately after a diphthong, or after a syllable containing one, designates the accented syllable, but the diphthong has its proper sound; as in renew', devour', avow', appoint', annoy'.

VI. This mark ' called in Greek the grave accent, placed before a vowel, indicates that vowel to have its Italian sound, as in 'ask, 'lar, 'father, m'ask. In words of two or more syllables, when no other accent is used, this designates the accented syllable; as in 'answerable, b'argain.

VII. Two accents immediately before *c*, *t* or *s*, indicate that *c*, *t* or *s*, in pronunciation, coalesces with the following vowel, and form the sound of *sh* or *zh*, which closes the syllable, and of course the preceding vowel is short. Thus, vi'ci'ous, amb'i'tion, are pronounced vizh'us, amb'ish'on; vi'sion is pronounced vizh'in.

VIII. *C* before *a*, *o* and *u*, and in some other situations, is a close articulation, like *k*, and in the vocabulary of this work, whenever it is equivalent to *k*, it is marked thus *C*.

Before *e*, *i* and *y*, *c* is precisely equivalent to *s*, in *same*, *this*; as in cedar, civil, cypress, capacity.

IX. *E* final answers the following purposes.

1. It indicates that the preceding vowel is long; as in *hate*, *metre*, *sire*, *robe*, *tyre*; *abate*, *recede*, *invite*, *remote*, *intrude*.

2. It indicates that *c* preceding has the sound of *s*, as in *lance*, *hance*, and that *g* preceding has the sound of *j*, as in *charge*, *page*, *challenge*.

3. In proper English words, *e* final never forms a syllable, and in most words, in the terminating unaccented syllable, it is silent and useless. Thus, *motive*, *genuine*, *examine*, *juvenile*, *reptile*, *granite*, are pronounced *motive*, *genuin*, *examin*, *juvenile*, *reptil*, *granit*.

In a few words of foreign origin, *e* final forms a syllable; as in syncope, simile. These are noted in their place.

X. *E* final is silent after *i* in the following terminations, *ble*, *cle*, *die*, *fle*, *gle*, *kle*, *ple*, *tle*, *zle*; as in *able*, *manacle*, *cradle*, *ruffle*, *mangle*, *whiskle*, *supple*, *rattle*, *puzzle*, which are pronounced a'bl, man'a'cl, cri'dl, ru'fl, man'gl, wri'kl, sup'pl, pu'z'z.

XI. In the termination *on*, *e* is usually silent; as in *token*, *broken*, pronounced *tokon*, *brokun*.

XII. The termination *ous* in adjectives and their derivatives is pronounced *us*; as in *gracious*, *pious*, pompously.

XIII. The combinations *ce*, *ci*, *ti*, before a vowel, have the sound of *sh*; as in *cetaceous*, *gracious*, *motion*, *partial*, *ingratiare*, pronounced *cetashus*, *grashus*, *moshon*, *parshal*, *ingrashate*.

But *ti* after a consonant have the sound of *ch*; as in *christian*, *bastion*, *mixture*, pronounced *chrishchan*, *baschan*, *mixchun*. So in *combustion*, *digestion*.

Si after an accented vowel are pronounced like *zh*; as in *Ephesian*, *confusion*, pronounced *Ephezhchan*, *confuzhion*.

When *ci* or *ti* precede similar combinations, as in pronunciation, negotiation, they may be pronounced *ce*, instead of *she*, to prevent a repetition of the latter syllable; as *pronunshashon*, instead of *pronunshashun*.

XIV. *Gh*, both in the middle and at the end of words, are silent; as in *caught*, *bought*, *fright*, *nigh*, *sigh*; pronounced *caut*, *baut*, *frite*, *nigh*, *si*.

Exceptions. In the following words *gh* are pronounced as *f*—*ough*, *chough*, *clough*, *enough*, *hough*, *laugh*, *rough*, *slough*, *tough*, *trough*.

XV. When *wh* begin a word, the aspirate *h* precedes *w* in pronunciation, as in *what*, *whiff*, *whale*, pronounced *hwat*, *hwif*, *hwale*; *w* having precisely the sound of *oo*, *Frenchman*.

In the following words, *w* is silent—who, whom, whose, whoop, whole, where.

XVI. *H* after *r* has no sound nor use; as in *rheum*, *rhyme*, pronounced *reum*, *ryue*.

XVII. *K* and *g* before *n* are silent; as in *know*, *gnaw*, pronounced *no*, *naw*.

XVIII. *H* before *r* is silent; as in *wring*, *wreath*, pronounced *ring*, *reath*.

XIX. *B* after *n* is silent; as in *dumb*, *numb*, pronounced *dum*, *num*.

XX. *L* before *k* is silent; as in *baulk*, *walk*, *talk*, pronounced *bauk*, *wauk*, *tau*.

XXI. *Ph* have the sound of *f*; as in *philosophy*.

XXII. The combination *ng* has two sounds; one, as in *sing*, *singer*; the other, as in *finger*, *linger*, *longer*. The latter is the more close palatal sound; but the distinction can only be learned by the ear.

XXIII. The letters *cl*, answering to *kl*, are pronounced as if written *tl*; clear, clean, are pronounced *clear*, *tlean*.

Gl are pronounced as *dl*; glory is pronounced *dory*.

XXIV. After *m*, and closing a syllable, is silent; as in *hymn*, *condemn*.

XXV. *P* before *s* and *t* is mute; as in *psalm*, *pseudology*, *ptarmigan*, pronounced *salm*, *sudology*, *tarmigan*.

The letter *y* unaccented and terminating words of more syllables than one is short, like *i* in *pity* and *ability*. This letter, in the plural number of nouns and in the third person singular of the present tense of verbs, is dropped, and *ie* substituted and followed by *s*. The termination thus formed is pronounced *iz*; as *from* *vanity*, is formed *vanities*, pronounced *vanitiz*; from the verb *to pity* is formed *pities*, pronounced *pitiz*.

But when *y* in monosyllable verbs, and accented *y* in other verbs ends the word, the termination *ies* in the third person is pronounced *ize*; as in *flies* from *fly*, *defies* from *defy*. So *cries*, both the verb and noun, is pronounced *crize*.

S has two sounds: its proper sound as in *see*, and that of *z* as in *his*. It