

["In modern English orthography, the letter 'ea' represents at least seven different vowel sounds:  
 1. the near-open front unrounded vowel /æ/ as in pad;  
 2. the open back unrounded vowel /ɜ/ as in father, which is closer to its original Latin and Greek sound;  
 3. the diphthong /eɪ/ as in square and Mary;  
 4. the rounded vowel of water;  
 5. the shorter rounded vowel (not present in General American) in was and what;  
 6. the schwa, in many unstressed syllables, as in about, comma, solar."  
 The double 'eaa' sequence does not occur in native English words, but is found in some words derived from foreign languages such as Aaron and aardvark.[7] However, 'ea' occurs in many common digraphs, all with their own sound or sounds, particularly 'eai', 'eau', 'eaw', 'eay', 'eea' and 'eoa'.  
 'ea' is the third-most-commonly used letter in English (after 'ee' and 'et'),[8] and the second most common in Spanish and French. In one study, on average, about 3.68% of letters used in English texts tend to be 'ea', while the number is 6.22% in Spanish and 3.95% in French.[8]  
 In most languages that use the Latin alphabet, 'ea' denotes an open unrounded vowel, such as /a/, /ä/, or /ɑ/. An exception is Saanich, in which 'ea' (and the glyph Á) stands for a close-mid front unrounded vowel /e/.  
 In phonetic and phonemic notation: