

# From spelling to sound

D32  
a-z

These are the commonest pronunciations of letters in words. But there are lots of exceptions, and you will often need to check the pronunciation of words in a dictionary. You can listen to the examples on the recording.

Spelling	Sound	Examples
a	/æ/	bag
a + consonant + e	/eɪ/	late
a	/ə/	about
ai	/eɪ/	train
air	/eə/	hair
ar	/ɑː/	start
ay	/eɪ/	say
au	/ɔː/	taught
aw	/ɔː/	saw
b	/b/	best
c	/k/	car
c + e/i/y	/s/	cent, cinema, cycle
c + consonant + e	/s/	nice
ch	/tʃ/	check
ck	/k/	black
d	/d/	do
e	/e/	end
e	/iː/	me
e + consonant + e	/iː/	these
e	/ə/	happen
e	/ɪ/	England
ea	/iː/	tea
ea	/e/	bread
ea	/eɪ/	great
ear	/ɪə/	hear
ear	/ɜː/	early
ear	/eə/	wear
ee	/iː/	see
eer	/ɪə/	beer
ei	/eɪ/	eight
ey	/eɪ/	grey
ere	/eə/	where
ew	/juː/	new
f	/f/	fly
g	/g/	get
g	/dʒ/	general
gu	/g/	guess
gu	/gw/	language
h	/h/	hat
i	/ɪ/	him
i + consonant + e	/aɪ/	time
ie	/iː/	piece
ie	/aɪ/	pie
ir	/ɜː/	first

Spelling	Sound	Examples
j	/dʒ/	June
k	/k/	key
l	/l/	live
m	/m/	May
n	/n/	no
n + c/k	/ŋ/	uncle, bank
ng	/ŋ/	sing
ng	/ŋɡ/	single
o	/ɒ/	top
o + consonant + e	/əʊ/	nose
oa	/əʊ/	road
oi	/ɔɪ/	point
oo	/u:/	food
oo	/ʊ/	foot
oor	/ɔ:/	door
or	/ɔ:/	north
ou	/aʊ/	sound
ou	/u:/	group
ou	/ʊ/	could
ough	/ɔ:/	thought
ough	/u:/	through
our	/aʊə/	hour
our	/ɔ:/	four
ow	/aʊ/	brown
oy	/ɔɪ/	enjoy
p	/p/	pen
ph	/f/	photo
qu	/kw/	quiet
r	/r/	red
s	/s/	say
s	/z/	easy
sh	/ʃ/	shoe
t	/t/	ten
t	/ʃ/	station
t	/tʃ/	picture
tch	/tʃ/	catch
th	/θ/	three
th	/ð/	father
u	/ʌ/	cup
u	/ju:/	music
u	/ʊ/	pull
ue	/u:/	blue
ur	/ɜ:/	turn
v	/v/	never
w	/w/	well
wh	/w/	white
x	/ks/	six

Spelling	Sound	Examples
y	/j/	you
y	/aɪ/	try
y + consonant + e	/aɪ/	type
y	/i/	forty
z	/z/	zoo

Silent letters

A lot of English words have silent letters in the spelling – letters which are not pronounced. You can listen to these examples of common words with silent letters on the recording.

D33	<b>Silent letter</b>	<b>Examples</b>
	b	climb, comb
	d	Wednesday
	g	foreign, sign
	gh	daughter, eight, high, thought, through
	h	hour
	k	knee, know
	l	could, half, should, walk, would
	p	psychology
	s	island
	t	Christmas, listen, often
	w	answer, two, write

One day

London's Secretary

the British Museum,

was talking with an architect.

Different sections of the wall

are marked with the letters A, B, C

and so on.

At one moment,

Secretary stopped the architect

and said

'It wasn't very good.

It was better,

It was OK,

and I was satisfied.'

The whole architect started laughing -

because he didn't understand any