

TYPES OF SYLLABLE

in **monosyllabic** words

	1 st (closed)	2 nd (open)	3 rd (R, closed)	4 th (R, open)
a	æ <i>can </i>	eɪ <i>ca ne</i>	ɑ: <i>car </i>	εə <i>ca re</i>
e	ε <i>hell</i>	i: <i>he</i>	ɜ: <i>her</i>	ɪə <i>here</i>
i, y	ɪ <i>fin, nymph</i>	aɪ <i>fine, type</i>	ɜ: <i>fir, myrrh</i>	aɪə <i>fire, tyre</i>
o	ɒ <i>log</i>	əʊ <i>loge</i>	ɔ: <i>lord</i>	ɔ: <i>lore</i>
u	ʌ <i>cut</i>	(j)u: [*] <i>cute</i>	ɜ: <i>curd</i>	(j)ʊə [*] <i>cure</i>

* /u:/ after /r, l, ʃ-ʒ, tʃ-dʒ/ and normally /s/.

TYPES OF SYLLABLE

in **disyllabic** words (stressed + unstressed)

	1 st (closed)	2 nd (open)*	3 rd (R, closed)**	4 th (R, open)*
a	æ <i>cab bage</i>	eɪ / = 1 st <i>ca ble</i> <i>ca bin</i>	ɑː <i>car bon</i> <i>car ry</i> **	ɛə / = 1 st <i>ca ring</i> <i>ca rol</i>
e	ɛ <i>fetter</i>	iː / = 1 st <i>fetus</i> <i>fetish</i>	ɜː <i>fertile</i> <i>ferry</i>	ɪə / = 1 st <i>hero</i> <i>feral</i>
i, y	ɪ <i>victim</i>	aɪ / = 1 st <i>vital</i> <i>visit</i>	ɜː <i>mirky</i> <i>mirror</i>	aɪə / = 1 st <i>viral</i> <i>virile</i>
o	ɒ <i>motto</i>	əʊ / = 1 st <i>motor</i> <i>model</i>	ɔː <i>mortal</i> <i>morrow</i>	ɔː / = 1 st <i>moron</i> <i>moral</i>
u	ʌ <i>funding</i>	(j)uː <i>fusion</i>	ɜː <i>furnish</i> <i>furrow</i>	(j)ʊə <i>fury</i>

* In disyllables, the **first stressed open** syllable (2nd or 4th type) can be pronounced as the 1st type. (The letter **U** is the exception.) It happens when the second, unstressed, syllable is reduced to [ɪ] (sometimes, to [ə]): **pa|nic** /-pæ-/, **mo|ral** /-mə-/. Ultimately, it's not always predictable.

** When **R** is doubled after the vowel, the syllable is pronounced as that of the 1st type: **tar|ry** /-tæ-/, **lor|ry** /-lə-/.

TYPES OF SYLLABLE

in **trisyllabic** words

	1 st (closed)	2 nd (open)*	3 rd (R, closed)**	4 th (R, open)*
a	æ <i>pan the on</i>	= 1 st / (eɪ) <i>pa no ply</i> (<i>pa ten tly</i>)	ɑ: <i>Par kin son's</i> <i>par ri cide</i> **	= 1 st / (εə) <i>pa ro dy</i> (<i>pa ren tage</i>)
e	ε <i>mem ber ship</i>	= 1 st / (i:) <i>metaphor</i> (<i>met eor</i>)	ɜ: <i>mer chand ise</i> <i>mer rily</i>	= 1 st / (ɪə) <i>mer it able</i> (<i>ser ial</i>)
i, y	ɪ <i>pin nacle</i>	= 1 st / (aɪ) <i>pitiful</i> (<i>pi lot age</i>)	ɜ: <i>cir cum stance</i> <i>Pyrr hon ist</i>	= 1 st / (aɪə) <i>pyr amid</i> (<i>pi racy</i>)
o	ɒ <i>con tinet</i>	= 1 st / (əʊ) <i>copulate</i> (<i>co pious</i>)	ɔ: <i>cor poral</i> <i>cor relate</i>	= 1 st / (ɔ:) <i>Cor aline</i> <i>cho rally</i>
u	ʌ <i>cus tody</i>	(j)u: <i>cu bical</i>	ɜ: <i>cur sory</i> <i>cur rently</i>	(j)ʊə <i>cu rable</i>

* In tri- and tetrasyllables, it's the **antepenult** that is normally **stressed**; and if it's open (2nd or 4th type), most times it's pronounced as the 1st type. (The letter **U** is the exception.): **fa**mily /'fæmli/ 'fæ-/ , **he**rely /'hɛrɛsi/ 'hɛ-/.

** When **R** is doubled after the vowel, the syllable is pronounced as that of the 1st type: **bar**ris|ter /'bærɪstə/ 'bæ-/ , **hor**ri|fy /'hɒrɪfaɪ/ 'hɒ-/.

CONSONANTS & LETTER COMBINATIONS

c	before e, i, y	s k	face, city, icy cat, locus, fact
ch	in words from Greek	tʃ k	cheek, achieve, beach character, mechanic, tech
dg(e)		dʒ	edge, judgement, badger
g	before e, i, y	dʒ g	rage, gist, Egypt gate, agony, hug
gh		f —	cough, draught, laughter high, straight
kn, gn	word-initially	n	knife, gnome
ng		ŋ ŋg	young, ring, singer younger, finger, language
ph		f	photo, orphan, Ralph
ps pt	word-initially	s t	psalm, psychology, psyche pterosaur, Ptolemy
qu	in words from French	kw k	quest, liquid, equal quay, liqueur, antique
sch	in words from German	sk ʃ	school, scheme, schooner schmuck, schmaltz
sh		ʃ	shade, usher, ash

th	in notional words in form words intervocally	θ ð ð	<i>th</i> ick, <i>ath</i> lete, <i>path</i> <i>th</i> an, <i>th</i> at, <i>th</i> ey <i>blith</i> e, <i>loath</i> e, <i>breath</i> e
tch	instead of ch after checked vowels	tʃ	<i>kitch</i> en, <i>catch</i> , <i>notch</i>
wh	before o	w h	<i>wh</i> ale, <i>wh</i> elp, <i>wh</i> ine <i>wh</i> o, <i>wh</i> ole, <i>wh</i> ore
wr		r	<i>w</i> rite, <i>w</i> rist, <i>w</i> retch
ai, ay		eɪ	<i>mai</i> n, <i>bay</i>
a + ng, st, th + e		eɪ	<i>range</i> , <i>paste</i> , <i>bathe</i>
a + fC, sC, th a + mC, nC a + l + f, v	not always not always l is not pronounced	ɑ: (UK)	<i>raft</i> , <i>grasp</i> , <i>path</i> <i>sample</i> , <i>chance</i> , <i>can't</i> <i>half</i> , <i>calf</i> , <i>calves</i>
a + l + m	l is not pronounced	ɑ:	<i>calm</i> , <i>palm</i> , <i>psalm</i>
a + l + k, l, t	l before k is mute	ɔ:	<i>chalk</i> , <i>all</i> , <i>malt</i>
au		ɔ:	<i>aught</i> , <i>fraud</i> , <i>vault</i>
w, qu + a	before velars: [k, g, ŋ]	ɒ, ɔ: æ	<i>want</i> , <i>ward</i> , <i>squash</i> <i>quack</i> , <i>wag</i> , <i>twang</i>
ea	before d, (l)th, su, sa exceptions	ɛ i: eɪ	<i>head</i> , <i>death</i> , <i>wealth</i> <i>leak</i> , <i>beam</i> , <i>feat</i> <i>break</i> , <i>great</i> , <i>steak</i>

ee		i:	<i>need, wheel, meet</i>
ei, ey	after [s]; with initial k	eɪ i:	<i>rein, they</i> <i>seize, deceive, key</i>
i + gh, ld, nd	gh is not pronounced	aɪ	<i>sigh, child, blind</i>
ie		i:	<i>brief, piece, wield</i>
o + ld, lk, ll, lt, st, th	l before k is mute	əʊ	<i>gold, folk, stroll</i> <i>bolt, post, both</i>
oa	exceptions	əʊ ɔ:	<i>oak, moat, loan</i> <i>broad, abroad</i>
oa + r		ɔ:	<i>oar, board, hoarse</i>
o + m, n, v + e	as is normal in oCV	ʌ əʊ	<i>come, none, glove</i> <i>Rome, phone, prove</i>
ou	in foreign words before gh [f] before ght [—t]	aʊ u: ʌ ɔ:	<i>out, rout, mouth</i> <i>douche, route, soup</i> <i>rough, tough, slough</i> <i>ought, bought, thought</i>
oo	esp. before [d, k] exceptions	u: ʊ ʌ	<i>doom, moon, tool</i> <i>book, hood</i> <i>blood, flood</i>
ow		aʊ əʊ	<i>now, owl, down</i> <i>slow, show, own</i>