

Consonant Sound–Spelling Patterns

Sound	Spelling	Example	Sound	Spelling	Example
/b/	b bb	big bubble	/r/	r wr rr rh	rat write carry rhino
/ch/	ch tch t	chip match future	/s/	s ss c ce se sc	ip glass civil voice house science
/d/	d ed dd	did turned rudder	/t/	t tt bt pt ed	tab mitt debt pterodactyl sipped
/f/	f ff ph ph lf	fat stuff phone tough	/v/	v ve	van nerve
/g/	g gg gh	tag giggle ghost	/ks/	x	fox
/h/	h wh	hot whole	/z/	z zz s se ze x	zip buzz is choose snooze xylophone
/j/	j g ge dge	jet giraffe barge fudge	/th/	th	thing this
/k/	k c ck ch	kite cat duck chord	/sh/	sh s ss ch sc	shell sure mission chef conscience
/l/	l ll le	lip full sample	/hw/	wh	wheel
/m/	m mm mb mm	man slimmer numb autumn	/ŋ/	ng	sing
/n/	n nn kn gn pn	no winner know gnat pneumonia	/w/	w	water
/p/	p pp	hip happy	/y/	y	yellow
/kw/	q	queen			

Note: A consonant digraph consists of two consecutive consonant that make one sound (e.g., th, sh, wh).

Vowel Sound–Spelling Patterns

Sound	Spelling	Example	Sound	Spelling	Example
/ă/	a	cat	/oo/	oo oul u	cook would put
/ā/	a_e ai ay ea ey eigh a ei aigh	ape rain say steak they eighty paper vein straight	/oo/	oo ue ew u ui u_e ou oe o	boot blue new super suit flute soup shoe do
/ĕ/	e ea ai ie	bed bread said friend	/aw/	aw au al ough augh	lawn fraud walk fought taught
/ē/	ee ea ie y e i_e i ei e_e ey	meet seat chief sunny she petite variation receive eve key	/ow/	ow ou ough	cow out drought
/ī/	i y	inch myth	/oy/	oy oi	boy soil
/ī/	_e ie eigh igh y uy i	kite cried height sigh my buy bicycle	/er/	er ur ir or ear ar yr	faster turn girl work learn dollar syrup
/ō/	o	hot	/or/	or oar ore our	for board store course
/ō/	o_e oa oe o ow ough ou	note boat toe most grow though soul	/ar/	ar ear	car heart
/ū/	u ou	tub touch			
/ū/	u_e u ew	mule pupil few			

Note: A vowel digraph consists of two consecutive vowels that make one sound (e.g., ea in bread, oa in boat, ai in rain). A diphthong consists of two consecutive vowels that feel as if it has two sounds (e.g., oy in boy, ew in few).

Schwa

Schwa (/ə/) often makes the short u sound as in cup.

Sound	Spelling	Example
/ə/	a	alone
/ə/	e	jacket
/ə/	i	pencil
/ə/	o	gallop
/ə/	u	circus

Syllable Patterns

A **syllable** is a word part with a vowel in it. Usually, a word has as many syllables as it has vowels. Many students transfer their knowledge of syllable patterns to multisyllabic words. But some don't. This is a problem frequently encountered in the upper grades. In decoding, it is the vowel that causes confusion. Syllable patterns dictate how the vowel in the syllable is usually pronounced. Understanding syllable types can help students decode unfamiliar words.

Syllable Pattern	Description	Example
Closed	A closed syllable ends in one or more consonants and has a short vowel sound spelled with one vowel.	hat dish bas-ket
VCe	A syllable pattern that ends in silent e, which makes the vowel before it a long sound (say its name).	stripe shine bake
Open	An open syllable ends with a vowel sound that is spelled with a single vowel letter (a, e, i, o, or u).	me pro -gram mu -sic
Vowel Team	A syllable that has multiple vowels spelling the vowel.	tooth pain train -er
Vowel-r	A syllable that has at least one vowel followed by an r. The r always comes directly after the vowel (ar, er, ir, or, ur).	corn bird mar -ket
Consonant-le	A final syllable that contains a consonant followed by le. The e is always silent in this syllable pattern.	sim- ple puz- zle a- ble