

The 44 Phonemes of English

Following is a list of the 44 phonemes of English with the letters or groups of letters (graphemes) that represent the sounds, along with common spellings of each.

Phoneme	Graphemes	Examples
Consonant Sounds:		
/b/	b, bb	bed, ribbon
/d/	d, dd, ed	dog, odd, yelled, buzzed
/f/	f, ph, gh	friend, phone, laugh
/g/	g, gg, gh	leg, egg, ghost
/h/	h	hat
/j/	j, g, ge, dge	jog, cage, large, fudge
/k/	c, k, ck, ch, cc, que	cat, kangaroo, kick, school, soccer, plaque
/l/	l, ll	lake, lollipop
/m/	m, mm, mb	mop, swimmer, thumb
/n/	n, nn, kn, gn	nice, winner, kneel, gnome
/p/	p, pp	pig, ripple
/r/	r, rr, wr	rest, worry, write
/s/	s, se, ss, c, ce, sc	sun, house, mess, voice, dance scientist
/t/	t, tt, ed	teddy, butter, ripped, skipped
/v/	v, ve	vet, live
/w/	w	wet, windy, twig
/y/	y, i	yet, onion
/z/	z, zz, ze, s, se, x	zoo, buzz, wheeze, taser, was, tease, xylophone
/zh/	s	measure, vision
Consonant Digraphs: (two letters representing one sound)		
/th/ (unvoiced)	th	thumb, thing, think
/th/ (voiced)	th	this, weather, then
/ch/	ch, tch	chat, latch
/ng/	ng, n	wing, monkey, bank
/sh/	sh, ss, ch, ci, ti	ship, mission, machine, potion, special
/wh/	wh	when, what, why, where
Short Vowel Sounds:		
/a/	a, au	cat, laugh
/e/	e, ea	bed, bread
/i/	i	in
/o/	o, a,	cot, want
/u/	u, o	under, won
Long Vowel Sounds:		
/ā/	a, a_e, ay, ai, ey, ei, eigh	baby, cake, stay, train, they, weight, vein
/ē/	e, e_e, ea, ee, ey, ie, y	he, these, eat, sheet, key, chief, happy
/ī/	i, i_e, igh, y, ie	mind, wide, sight, might, site, fly, tried, pie
/ō/	o, o_e, oa, ow, oe	go, note, float, road, toe
/ū/	u, u_e, ew	truth, tune, drew, few



The 44 Phonemes of English contd..

Phoneme	Graphemes	Examples
Other Vowel Sounds:		
/oo/	oo, u, oul	book, sugar, would
/ōō/	oo, u, u_e, ew, ough	food, truth, rule, drew, through
/ow/	ow, ou,	cow, out
/oy/	oi, oy	coin, joy
/ar/	ar, au	star laugh
/air/	air, ear, are	fair, stair, bear, bare, stare,
/eer/	eer, ere, ear	deer, here, dear
/or/	or, ore, oor, au, aw, ough, al, ure	fork, shore, door, haul, draw, bought, walk, sure
/ur/	ur, ir, er, ear, or	turn, girl, person, earth, word, worm
Tricky graphemes:		
Letter:	Sound	
x	/k//s/ as in fox, fix, box	/g//z/ as in exam, /z/ as in xylophone
q(u) (usually paired with 'u')	/k//w/ as in quick	/k/ as in marquis, bouquet

