

Vowel Sounds Chart

All 20 American English vowel sounds mapped to their common spellings.

Short A

a (as in cat)

Examples: bat, cap, fan, ham, lap, map, pan, sat

Short E

e / ea (as in bed)

Examples: bet, get, hen, jet, pen, red, head, bread

Short I

i / y (as in sit)

Examples: bit, dip, fig, hip, kit, gym, myth

Short O

o / a after w (as in hot)

Examples: cot, pot, fox, got, want, wash

Short U

u / o / ou (as in cup)

Examples: bug, fun, hug, come, love, blood

Long A

a-e / ai / ay / ei / ey / ea (as in cake)

Examples: lake, rain, play, veil, they, steak

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Long E

ee / ea / e-e / ie / ei / ey / e (as in feet)

Examples: seed, beach, these, chief, key, he

Long I

i-e / igh / ie / i / y (as in bike)

Examples: kite, night, pie, find, fly

Long O

o-e / oa / ow / o / oe (as in bone)

Examples: home, boat, snow, go, toe

Long U

u-e / ew / ue / u (as in cute)

Examples: mule, cube, few, cue, human

AR

ar (as in car)

Examples: bar, farm, hard, jar, park, star

OR

or / ore / oar / oor (as in corn)

Examples: fort, more, board, floor

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ER/IR/UR

er / ir / ur / ear (as in bird)

Examples: fern, shirt, turn, learn, word

EAR

ear / eer / ere / ier (as in fear)

Examples: near, beer, here, fierce

AIR

are / air / ear / ere (as in care)

Examples: share, hair, bear, there

Short OO

oo / u / ou (as in book)

Examples: look, good, foot, put, push, could

Long OO

oo / ue / ew / u-e / ui (as in moon)

Examples: food, blue, flew, tube, fruit

AW

aw / au / a before l (as in saw)

Examples: paw, draw, haul, ball, talk

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OW

ou / ow (as in cloud)

Examples: shout, cow, down, brown

OI

oi / oy (as in coin)

Examples: oil, boil, joy, boy