

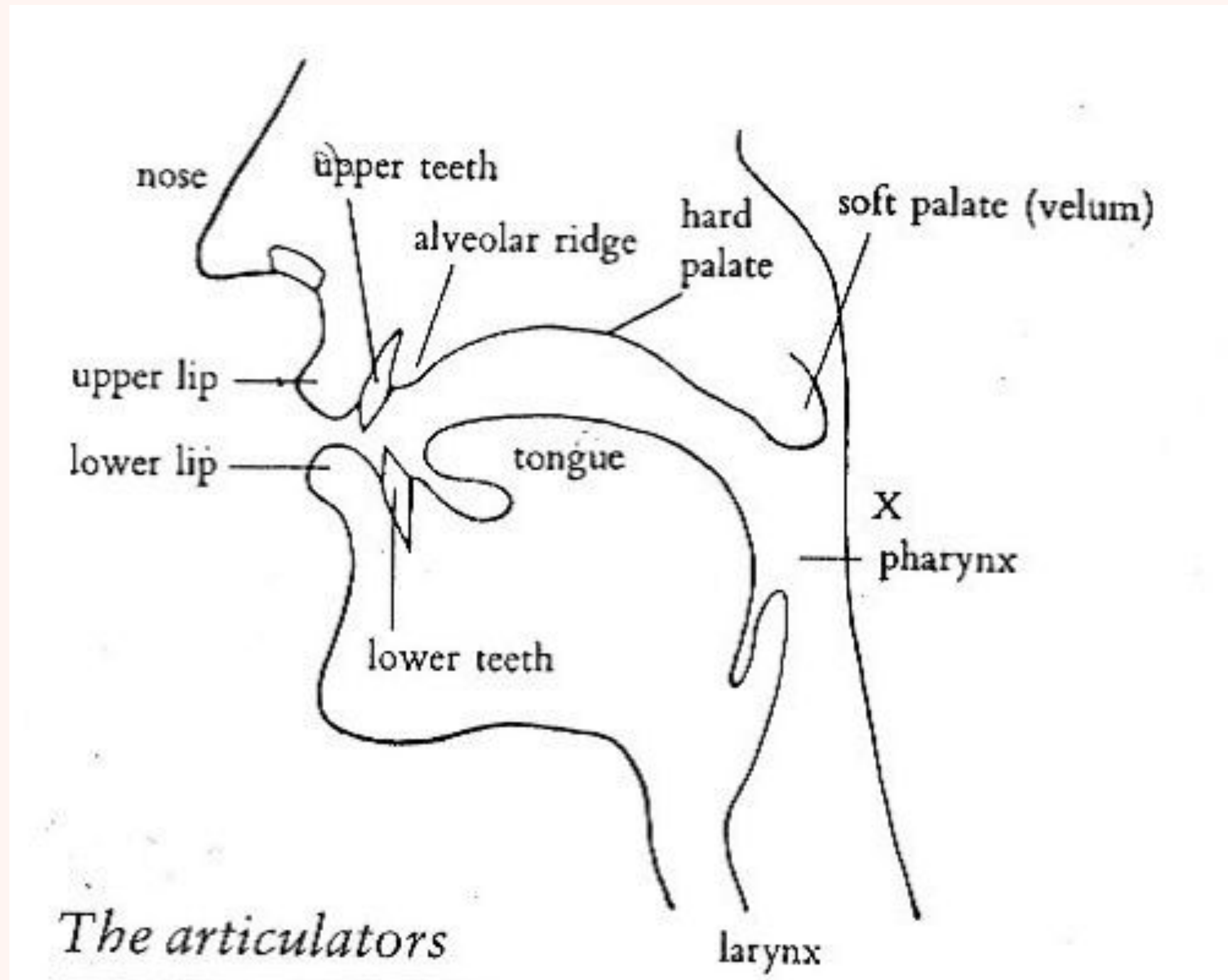
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# THE BASES OF ENGLISH PHONETICS

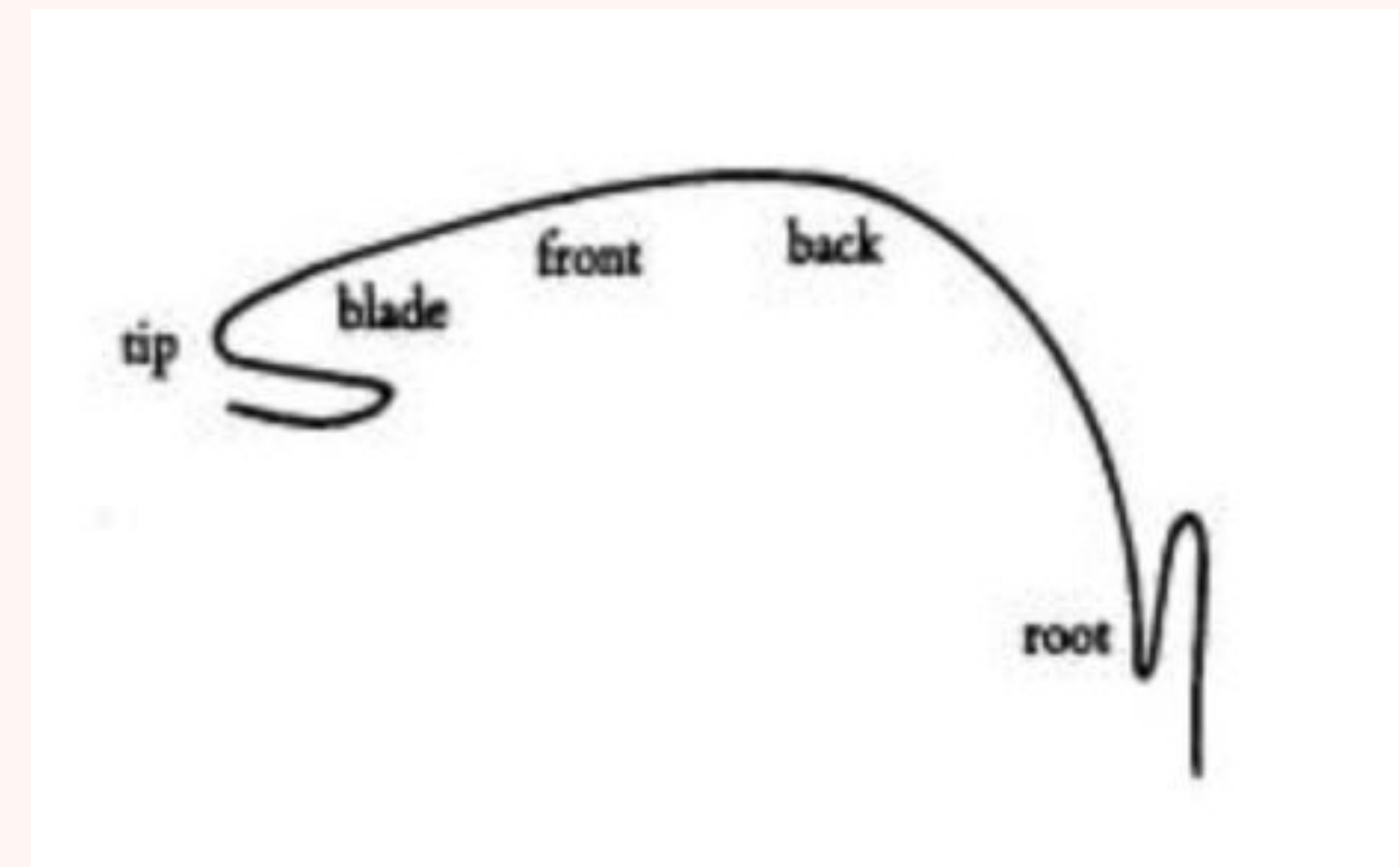
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Two vertical lines extending downwards from the bottom horizontal line, one on the left and one on the right.

# THE PRODUCTION OF SPEECH SOUNDS



- Copy the pictures and translate the words



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## Sounds and Symbols:

<b>i:</b>	<b>ɪ</b>	<b>ʊ</b>	<b>u:</b>	<b>ɪə</b>	<b>eɪ</b>		
<b>e</b>	<b>ə</b>	<b>ə:</b>	<b>ɔ:</b>	<b>ʊə</b>	<b>ɔɪ</b>	<b>əʊ</b>	
<b>æ</b>	<b>ʌ</b>	<b>ɑ:</b>	<b>ɒ</b>	<b>eə</b>	<b>aɪ</b>	<b>aʊ</b>	
<b>p</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>tʃ</b>	<b>dʒ</b>	<b>k</b>	<b>g</b>
<b>f</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>θ</b>	<b>ð</b>	<b>s</b>	<b>z</b>	<b>ʃ</b>	<b>ʒ</b>
<b>m</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>ŋ</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>l</b>	<b>r</b>	<b>w</b>	<b>j</b>

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# VOWEL SOUNDS

<i>Monophthongs</i> there is no change in the position of the organs of speech	[ɪ], [e], [æ], [ʌ], [ɒ], [ʊ], [ə], [ɑ:], [ɔ:], [ə:] fit, pet, lad, cup, hot, put, letter, card, lord, firm
<i>Diphthongs</i> there is a change in the position of the organs of speech — a glide from one vowel to another	[eɪ], [aɪ], [ɔɪ], [əʊ], [aʊ], [ɪə], [eə], [ʊə] plate, kite, voice, rose, mouse, near, fair, lure
<i>Diphthongoids</i> there is a slight change in the positions of the organs of speech	[i:], [u:] feed, food

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When the schwa sound is added to the diphthongs, a triphthong is formed:

[eɪə] (player), [aɪə] (fire), [ɔɪə] (royal), [əʊə] (lower), [aʊə] (power).

There is a glide from one vowel to another and then to a third one without interruption.

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Vowels can be also classified according to the following characteristics: vowel height the highest point of the tongue in relation to the roof of the mouth (high [i:], mid [e], and low [æ])

vowel location — the section of the tongue that is raised during the production of the vowel (front [i:], central [ə], and back [ɒ]), and lip position — rounded or unrounded (rounded [ʊ] and unrounded [ə]).

Vowel length is also a phonemic feature in English (e.g. fit and feat).

English vowels are traditionally divided into long ([i:], [u:], [ɔ:], [ɑ:], [ə:]) and short ([ɪ], [ʊ], [ʌ], [æ], [ə], [e], [ɒ]).

The length of a vowel also depends on the phonetic context: if a vowel is followed by a voiced consonant, it is slightly longer than when it is followed by a voiceless consonant: the [i:] sound in feed is a bit longer compared to the [i:] sound in feat. Moreover, vowels are normally longer before sonorants and at the end of words than in other positions: firm, fee.

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# CONSONANT SOUNDS

*Depending on the manner of articulation, consonant sounds can be classified in the following way:*

## *Plosives*

there is a complete blockage of the airstream followed by its subsequent sudden release

[p], [b], [t], [d], [k], [g]  
pet, bet, to, do, cot, got

## *Fricatives*

there is a small space through which the airstream is able to escape

[f], [v], [s], [z], [θ], [ð], [ʃ], [ʒ], [h]  
fan, van, soon, zoom, thin, this, ship,  
treasure, hot

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# CONSONANT SOUNDS

*Depending on the manner of articulation, consonant sounds can be classified in the following way:*

<i>Affricatives</i> there is a blockage of the airstream at the start, but then it is released slowly	[tʃ], [dʒ] chin, gin
<i>Nasal sonorants</i> the sound passes through the nasal cavity	[m], [n], [ŋ] might, night, song
<i>Medial sonorants</i> the airstream passes by the central part of the tongue	[w], [r], [j] will, red, yet
<i>Lateral sonorant</i> the airstream passes by the sides of the tongue	[l] love, hill

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## The Consonants of English

The following diagram gives an overview of the consonants of English for both Received Pronunciation (standard British English) and General American (standard American English).

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Palato-alveolar (Post-alveolar)	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
<i>Unvoiced (-V)</i> <i>Voiced (+V)</i>	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V
<b>Stops (Plosives)</b>	p b			t d			k g	
<b>Fricatives</b>		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ			h
<b>Affricates</b>					tʃ dʒ			
<b>Nasals</b>	m			n			ŋ	
<b>Lateral (approximant)</b>				l				
<b>Approximant</b>	w			r		j	w	

The Consonants of RP (Received Pronunciation) & GA (General American)

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# CONSONANT SOUNDS

English consonant sounds can be also voiced [b], [d], [g], [v], [z], [ð], [ʒ], [dʒ], [m], [n], [ŋ], [w], [r], [j], [l] and voiceless [p], [t], [k], [f], [s], [θ], [ʃ], [tʃ], [h].

For voiced consonants, the vocal cords vibrate, and there is no vibration when voiceless consonants are pronounced.

There are voiceless and voiced pairs of some consonants, for example: [t] — [d], [k] — [g], [p] — [b], [f] — [v], [s] — [z], [θ] — [ð], [ʃ] — [ʒ], [tʃ] — [dʒ]. Such sounds are produced in the same way and by the same organs of speech (ten — den, pet — bet, fan — van, chin — gin). The only difference in their pronunciation is that we need to add or remove the voicing in the larynx.

Sounds w and y are sometimes called semi-vowels, because they are produced like vowels but function as consonants. They are similar to short vowel sounds, for example in yes and well.

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# TYPES OF SYLLABLES

1st Open  
(alphabet)

2nd Closed

3rd (vowel + 'r'  
(+consonant))

4th (vowel + 'r'  
+ vowel)

<b>A</b>	[ei] Mate, fate, name, frame.	[æ] Mat, back, sack, snap.	[a:] Car, star, bar, nar.	[ɛə] Hare, mare, fare, care.
<b>E</b>	[i:] he, me	[e] Wet, hen, zest.	[ə:] Boner, meter.	[iə] Here, mere,
<b>I</b>	[ai] File, vine, size, mice.	[i] Pit, hint, flip, did.	[ə:] Stir, skirt.	[aiə] Wire, fire,.
<b>O</b>	[ou] Hoe, vote, go, tone.	[ɔ] Mop, slop, top.	[ɔ:] Nor, for, form.	[ɔ:] Store, more, snore.
<b>U</b>	[ju:] Blue, glue, clue, duke.	[ʌ] Dull, skull, null, up.	[ə:] Slur, blur, fur, turn.	[juə] Cure, manure.
<b>Y</b>	[ai] Byte, sky,	[i] Myth, mystic,	[ə:] Myrtle,	[aiə] Byre, tyre.



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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

## A

A →[ɑ:] before lm, lf, lve (l is silent): palm, half, calves

before ff, ft, sk, sc, sp, st, ph: staff, raft, ask, rascal, grasp, fast, photograph

before nt, nd, nch, nce: slant, command, branch, stance, chance

before th: path, father, rather

[eɪ] before ste, the, nge: paste, bathe, angel

[ɒ] after w, wh, qu: was, what, quality

[ɔ:] before l + consonant (in lk l is silent): tall, walk, salt

after w, wh, qu before r: warm, wharf, quarter

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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

## O

O → [əʊ]

at the end of words: zero, solo, photo

before ll, ld, lt, st, lk (in lk l is silent): poll, cold, bolt, most, yolk (exceptions cost, frost, lost, doll) and in comb

[u:] move, improve, whose, whom, who, two, do, to

[ə:] after w and before r: word, work, world

[ʌ] before m, n, ve, th: come, some, stomach, money, honey, son, onion, love, glove, dove, above, mother, brother, in colour, dozen, thorough, worry

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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

## l, u, ei

l → [aɪ] before ld, nd, gh (gh is silent), mb: mild, grind, night, climb (exceptions: children, wind) in Christ, ninth, pint

U → [u] in bull, bush, full, pull, push, buffet, bullet, butcher, cushion, cuckoo, sugar, pudding  
[ʌ] cup, pulse, bulb

ei → [eɪ] veil, vein, rein

[i:] ceiling, seize, receive

[aɪ] either, neither, height

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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

## eigh, ey, ee

eigh → [eɪ] neighbor, weigh, eight  
[aɪ] in height (gh is silent)

ey → [eɪ] they, grey, fey  
[ɪ] at the end of words: kidney, Sidney, Wembley  
[i:] in key

ee → [i:] bee, fleet, meet

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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

## Ea

ea → [i:] tea, read, please

[e] before th, l(th) and sometimes before t, d: health, leather, bread, sweat, in dealt, jealous, deaf, heavy, heaven, measure, pleasure, pleasant, meant, leant, breakfast, breast

[eɪ] before k and sometimes t: steak, great

[ɪə] real, theatre

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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

ai → [eɪ] paid, raid, claim (exceptions: plait [plæt], said [sed])

ay → [eɪ] May, lay, play

oi → [ɔɪ] voice, noise, choice

oy → [ɔɪ] boy, envoy, employ

oo → [ʊ] before k: book, look, took, good, foot, stood, wool, wood  
[u:] moon, school, food

ia → [aɪə] dial, giant, liable

io → [aɪə] lion, riot, ion

ie → [i:] believe, thief, chief

[aɪə] quiet, science, piety

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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

au → [ɔ:] August, naughty, launch  
[ɑ:] aunt, laugh  
[ɒ] because, cauliflower, sausage

eu → [juə] Europe  
[ju:] feud, deuce, eulogy

aw → [ɔ:] law, paw, awe  
ew → [u:] after r, l, j, ch: crew, blew, jewel, chew  
[ju:] in all other positions: knew, few, dew

ui → [u:] after r, l, j: fruit, sluice, juice  
[ju:] in all other positions: nuisance, Buick

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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

oa → [əʊ] boat, coat, goat

[ɔ:] broad

air → [eə] air, hair, fair

ou → [əʊ] soul, shoulder, though

[aʊ] sound, house, mouse

[u:] soup, youth, through, rouble, group, rouge

[ʌ] rough, double, enough, country, southern, couple, trouble, courage, touch

[ɔ:] ought, bought, brought, fought, thought

[ʊ] could, should, would

oor → [ɔ:] door, floor

[uə] moor

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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

oar → [ɔ:] board, hoarse, roar

eer → [iə] beer, cheer, queer

eir → [eə] their, heir

ier → [iə] fierce, pierce, pier

iew → [ju:] view, review, interview

ear → [eə] bear, wear, pear

[iə] hear, ear, near

[ə:] before d, n, l, th, ch: heard, learn, pearl, earth, search

ower → [aʊə] tower, flower, power

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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

c → [s] before e, i, y: cent, city, cycle

[k] in other cases: cat, cold, cross

g → [dʒ] before e, i, y: gentle, gist, gym, page (exceptions: give, get)

[g] in other cases: bag, great, language

x → [gz] before a stressed vowel: exam, example, exist

[ks] in all other positions: box, oxen, fixed

s → [s] at the beginning of words, before and after voiceless consonants, and after u:

space, coast, glimpse, must, us, bus

[z] in the intervocalic position: visit, nose, rose

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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

j → [dʒ] jam, jazz, jet

sh → [ʃ] ship, leash, marshmallow

wh → [w] (unless followed by o) what, where, when

wh + o → [h] whole, who, whose

ch → [tʃ] church, chair, children

[ʃ] machine, moustache, parachute (in French borrowings)

[k] chemistry, scheme, character, school, stomach (in some words of Greek origin)

tch → [tʃ] match, catch, fetch

ck → [k] lock, clock, jacket

ng → [ŋ] in the final position: ring, song, sing

[ŋg] English, finger, single (in the middle of words) +longer, longest, stronger, strongest

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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

nk → [ŋk] rink, bank, think

nc → [ŋk] uncle

wr → [r] write, wren, writhe

rh → [r] rhyme, rhythm, rhapsody

mb → [m] climb, lamb, plumber

mn → [m] autumn, hymn, column

gh → [-] at the end of words: sigh, high, thigh

[g] at the beginning of words: ghastly, ghost, ghee

ght → [t] night, light, height

th → [θ] at the beginning and at the end of meaningful words: think, bath

[ð] in the middle of meaningful words and in function words: with, this, bathe

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# READING AND SPELLING RULES

gn → [n] sign, foreign, gnome

sl → [l] island, aisle, isle

ps → [s] in words of Greek origin: psalm, psychology, pseud

bt → [t] debt, doubt

qu → [kw] quest, quince, quick

que → [k] at the end of words: unique, antique

kn → [n] knee, know, knight

ph → [f] phrase, geography, metaphor

sten → [sn] listen, fasten, chasten

gu(e) → [g] at the beginning and at the end of words: guest, guard, dialogue

[gw] in the middle of words: language, linguistics, distinguish

y → [j] before a vowel: yes, yet, year

**[ɪ]**, **[ə:]**, **[aɪ]** hymn, myrtle, rhyme

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English spelling is irregular and is characterized by various exceptions to the rules. Because of the influence of the French language, a lot of French orthographic conventions were adopted.

There are also borrowings from other languages, such as Greek, Latin, Italian, etc. Also, while pronunciation has changed a great deal over the past few centuries, the spelling system has remained approximately the same.

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According to the reading and spelling rules, in the following commonly used words, the letters in brackets are usually not pronounced:

clim(b), com(b), dum(b);  
mus(c)le;  
han(d)kerchief, san(d)wich, We(d)nesday;  
champa(g)ne, forei(g)n, si(g)n;  
bou(gh)t, cau(gh)t, ou(gh)t, thou(gh)t; tau(gh)t  
dau(gh)ter, hei(gh)t, hi(gh), li(gh)t, mi(gh)t, nei(gh)bour,  
ni(gh)t, ri(gh)t, strai(gh)t, throu(gh), ti(gh)t, wei(gh)t;  
w(h)at, w(h)en, w(h)ere, w(h)ether, w(h)ich, w(h)ip, w(h)y;  
(h)onest, (h)onour, (h)our;  
(k)nee, (k)nife, (k)nob, (k)nock, (k)now;  
ca(l)m, cou(l)d, ha(l)f, sa(l)mon, shou(l)d, ta(l)k, wa(l)k,  
wou(l)d;  
autum(n), hym(n);  
(p)neumatic, (p)sychiatrist, (p)sychology, (p)sychotherapy,  
(p)terodactyl;  
cu(p)board;  
i(r)on (British pronunciation);  
i(s)land, i(s)le;  
cas(t)le, Chris(t)mas, fas(t)en, lis(t)en, whis(t)le;  
(w)rap, (w)rite, (w)rong;  
(w)ho, (w)hose, (w)hole

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## Other unusual spellings:

area [ˈeəɹɪə];  
bicycle [ˈbaɪsɪkəl];  
biscuit [ˈbɪskɪt];  
blood [blʌd];  
brooch [brəʊtʃ];  
business [ˈbɪznəs];  
Europe [ˈjʊərəp];  
foreign [ˈfɔrɪn];  
friend [frend];  
fruit [fru:t];  
heard [hə:d];  
heart [hɑ:t];  
juice [dʒu:s];  
minute [ˈmɪnət];  
moustache [məˈstɑ:ʃ];  
once [wʌns];  
one [wʌn];  
two [tu:];  
woman [ˈwʊmən];  
women [ˈwɪmɪn]

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