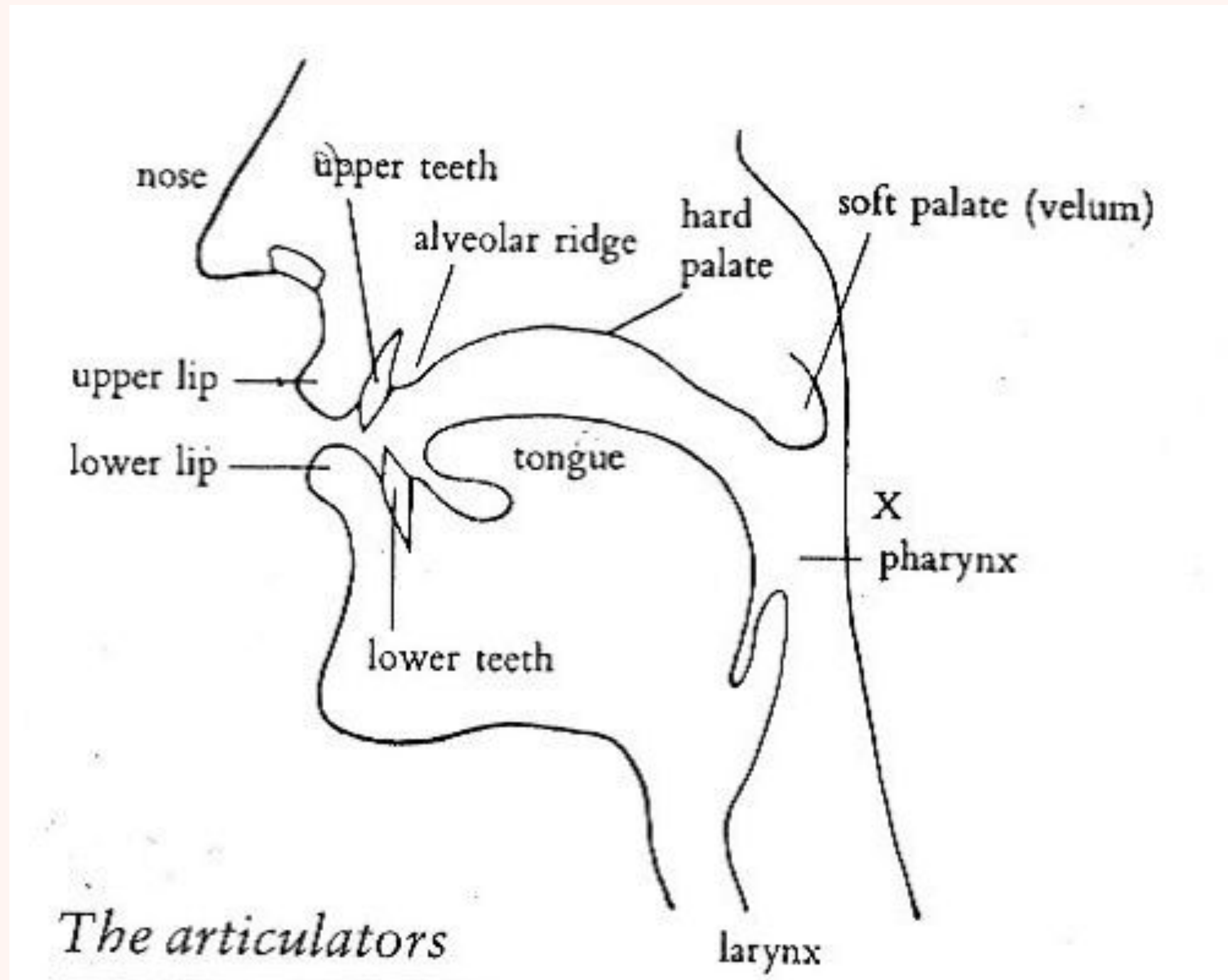
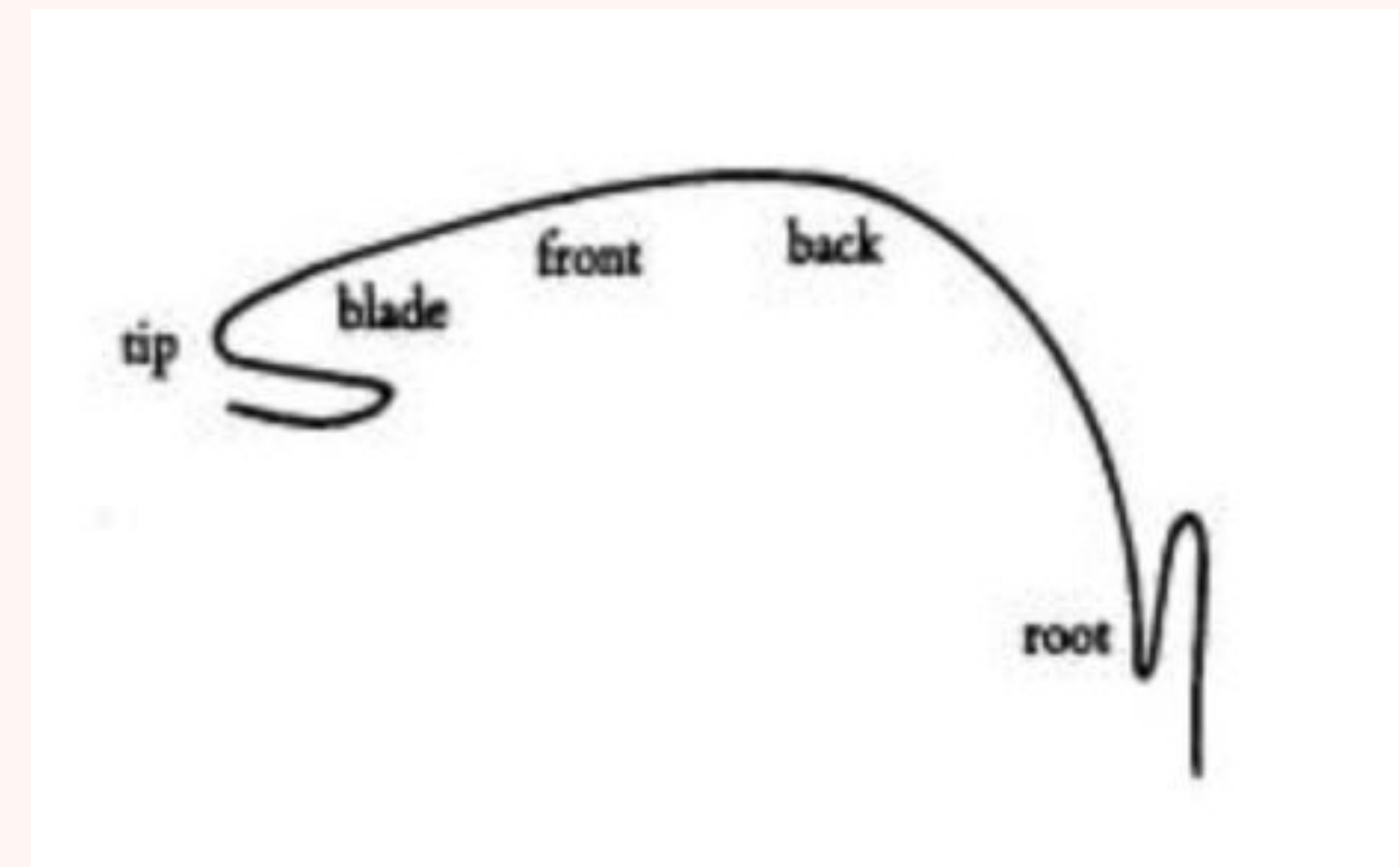

THE BASES OF ENGLISH PHONETICS

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



Sounds and Symbols:

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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
Stops (Plosives)	p b			t d			k g	
Fricatives		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ			h
Affricates					tʃ dʒ			
Nasals	m			n			ŋ	
Lateral (approximant)				l				
Approximant	w			r		j	w	

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

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.

TYPES OF SYLLABLES

1st Open
(alphabet)

2nd Closed

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

4th (vowel + 'r'
+ vowel)

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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 [məˈsta:ʃ];
once [wʌns];
one [wʌn];
two [tu:];
woman [ˈwʊmən];
women [ˈwɪmɪn]
