

# The English Alphabetic Code

simple code		complex code							
units of sound phoneme/s	graphemes in key word examples	graphemes, or spelling alternatives, which <b>are code for</b> the sounds							
/s/	s snake	-ss glass	-ce palace	-se house	ce cents	ci city	cy bicycle	sc scissors	-st- castle
/a/	a apple						/s/	ps pseudonym	
/t/	t tent	-tt letter	-ed skipped	-bt debt	pt pterodactyl				
/i/	i insect	-y cymbals							

/p/	p pan	-pp puppet						
/n/	n net	-nn bonnet	kn knot	gn gnome	-ine engine	pn pneumatic		
/k/	c cat	k kit	-ck duck	ch chameleon	qu bouquet	que plaque		
/e/	e egg	-ea head	-ai said					
/h/	h hat	wh who						

/r/	r rat	-rr arrow	wr write	rh rhinoceros				
/m/	m map	mm hammer	-me welcome	-mb thumb	-mn column			
/d/	d dig	-dd puddle	-ed rained					
/g/	g girl	-gg juggle	gu guitar	gh ghost	-gue catalogue			
/o/	o octopus	wa watch	qua qualify	alt salt				

/u/	u umbrella	o son	-ou touch	-ough thoroughfare			
/l/	l ladder	-ll shell					
/ul/	-le kettle	-il pencil	-al hospital	-el camel			
/f/	f feathers	-ff cliff	ph photo	-gh laugh			
/b/	b bat	-bb rabbit	bu building				

/j/	j jug	-ge cabbage	g <sup>e</sup> g <sup>i</sup> gy gerbil giraffe gymnast	-dge fridge				
/y/	y yawn							
/ai/	ai first aid	-ay tray	a table	-ae sundae	a-e cake	-ey prey	eigh eight	-ea break
/w/	w web	wh wheel	-u penguin			/ai/	-aigh straight	
/oa/	oa oak	ow bow	o yo-yo	-oe oboe	o-e rope	-ough dough	-eau plateau	


<b>/igh/</b>	<b>-igh</b> <b>n</b> ight	<b>-ie</b> <b>t</b> ie	<b>i</b> beh <b>in</b> d	<b>-y</b> <b>f</b> ly	<b>i-e</b> <b>b</b> ike	<b>ei</b> <b>e</b> ider	<b>eye</b> <b>e</b> ye	
<b>/ee/</b> * between /i and ee/	<b>ee</b> <b>e</b> el	<b>ea</b> <b>e</b> at	<b>e</b> <b>e</b> mu	<b>-y</b> * <b>s</b> unny	<b>e-e</b> con <b>cr</b> ete	<b>-ey</b> <b>k</b> ey * <b>d</b> on <b>k</b> ey	<b>-ie</b> <b>ch</b> ief * <b>m</b> ov <b>i</b> e	<b>-ine</b> sard <b>i</b> nes
<b>/or/</b> or /aw/ dependent on regional or national accent	<b>or</b> <b>f</b> ork	<b>oar</b> <b>o</b> ars	<b>-oor</b> <b>d</b> oor	<b>ore</b> <b>s</b> nore	<b>-our</b> <b>f</b> our	<b>war</b> <b>w</b> ardrobe	<b>quar</b> <b>qu</b> arter	<b>wa</b> <b>w</b> ater
	<b>aw</b> <b>d</b> awn	<b>au</b> <b>s</b> auce	<b>-al</b> <b>ch</b> alk	<b>augh</b> <b>c</b> aught	<b>ough</b> <b>th</b> ought			
<b>/z/</b>	<b>z</b> <b>z</b> ebra	<b>-zz</b> <b>j</b> azz	<b>-s</b> <b>f</b> ries	<b>-se</b> <b>ch</b> ee <b>s</b> e	<b>-ze</b> <b>b</b> ree <b>z</b> e			

/ng/	-ng gong	-n jungle				/ng+k/	-nk ink	-nc uncle
/v/	v violin	-ve dove						
short /oo/	oo book	oul could	-u push					
long /oo/	oo moon	-ue blue	u-e flute	-ew crew	-ui fruit	-ou soup	-o move	-ough through
/ks/	-x fox	-ks books	-cks ducks	-kes cakes		/gz/	-gs pegs	-x exam

/ch/	ch chair	-tch patch				/ch+u/	-ture picture
/sh/	sh sheep	ch chef	-ti station	-ci magician	-ssi admission		
unvoiced /th/	th thistle		voiced /th/	th there			
/k+w/	qu queen						
/ou/	ou ouch	ow owl	-ough plough				



/oi/	oi oi <b>n</b> tment	oy t <b>oy</b>						
/yoo/	-ue stat <b>ue</b>	u u <b>ni</b> corn	u-e t <b>u</b> be	ew n <b>ew</b>	eu pn <b>eu</b> matic			
/er/	er m <b>er</b> maid	ir b <b>ir</b> thday	ur n <b>ur</b> se	ear e <b>ar</b> th	wor w <b>or</b> ld			
schwa 'uh' /er/ or /u/	-er mix <b>er</b>	-our hum <b>our</b>	-re theat <b>re</b>	-ar coll <b>ar</b>	-or sail <b>or</b>			
/ar/	ar a <b>rt</b> ist	-a f <b>a</b> ther	alm p <b>a</b> lm	-alf h <b>a</b> lf	-alv c <b>a</b> lves			

/air/	air hair	-are hare	-ear bear	-ere where			<p>Grey dashes indicate that the particular letter/s-sound correspondence is unlikely to begin a word.</p> <p>Hollow letters alert the reader to various possible pronunciations.</p>
/eer/	eer deer	ear ears	-ere adhere	-ier cashier			<p>This chart is not definitive. You may discover further code and add it to the chart or your main phonics display wall.</p>
/zh/	-si television	-s treasure	-z azure	-g courgette	-ge collage		 <p>Phonics International by Debbie Hepplewhite</p>

### The complexities of the English Alphabetic Code:

1. one sound (phoneme) can be represented by one, two, three or four letters: e.g. /k/ k, /f/ ph, /igh/ igh, /ai/ eigh
2. one sound can be represented by different spellings (graphemes): e.g. /oa/ is represented by: o, oa, ow, oe, o-e, eau, ough
3. one spelling can represent multiple sounds: e.g. 'ough': /oa/ though, /or/ thought, /oo/ through, /ou/ plough, /u/ thorough

### Key to the 12 units of Debbie Hepplewhite's Phonics International online synthetic phonics programme:

units 1-5	Mainly simple code with options to extend	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th		
6-12	/air/, /eer/, /zh/, split digraphs, complex code	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th

Debbie's programme introduces a simple code of at least one letter/s-sound correspondence for each of the 44+ sounds of speech of the English language. The programme then expands to teach further spelling and pronunciation variations of the complex Alphabetic Code.