























# The English Alphabetic Code






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








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

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






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





<p>/igh/</p> 	<p>-igh night</p>	<p>-ie tie</p>	<p>i behind</p>	<p>-y fly</p>	<p>i-e bike</p>	<p>ei eider</p>	<p>eye eye</p>	
<p>/ee/</p> 	<p>ee eel</p>	<p>ea eat</p>	<p>e emu</p>	<p>-y *sunny</p>	<p>e-e concrete</p>	<p>-ey key *donkey</p>	<p>-ie chief *movie</p>	<p>-ine sardines</p>
<p>/or/</p>  <p>or/aw/</p>  <p>dependent on regional and national accents</p>	<p>or fork</p>	<p>oar oars</p>	<p>-oor door</p>	<p>ore snore</p>	<p>-our four</p>	<p>war wardrobe</p>	<p>quar quarter</p>	<p>wa water</p>
	<p>aw dawn</p>	<p>au sauce</p>	<p>-al chalk</p>	<p>augh caught</p>	<p>ough thought</p>			
<p>/z/</p> 	<p>z zebra</p>	<p>-zz jazz</p>	<p>-s fries</p>	<p>-se cheese</p>	<p>-ze breeze</p>			

/ng/ 	-ng gong	-n jungle				/ngk/ 	-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

<p>/ch/</p> 	<p>ch</p> <p>chair</p>	<p>-tch</p> <p>patch</p>				<p>/chu/</p> 		<p>-ture</p> <p>picture</p>
<p>/sh/</p> 	<p>sh</p> <p>sheep</p>	<p>ch</p> <p>chef</p>	<p>-ti</p> <p>station</p>	<p>-ci</p> <p>magician</p>	<p>-ssi</p> <p>admission</p>			
<p>unvoiced</p> <p>/th/</p> 	<p>th</p> <p>thistle</p>		<p>voiced</p> <p>/th/</p> 	<p>th</p> <p>there</p>				
<p>/kw/</p> 	<p>qu</p> <p>queen</p>							
<p>/ou/</p> 	<p>ou</p> <p>ouch</p>	<p>ow</p> <p>owl</p>	<p>-ough</p> <p>plough</p>					



<p>/oi/</p> 	<p>oi</p> <p>oi<b>ntment</b></p>	<p>oy</p> <p>to<b>y</b></p>						
<p>/yoo/</p> 	<p>-ue</p> <p>stat<b>ue</b></p>	<p>u</p> <p>uni<b>corn</b></p>	<p>u-e</p> <p>t<b>u</b>be</p>	<p>ew</p> <p>ne<b>w</b></p>	<p>eu</p> <p>pn<b>eu</b>matic</p>			
<p>/er/</p> 	<p>er</p> <p>me<b>re</b>maid</p>	<p>ir</p> <p>bi<b>re</b>thday</p>	<p>ur</p> <p>nu<b>re</b>se</p>	<p>ear</p> <p>ea<b>re</b>th</p>	<p>wor</p> <p>wo<b>re</b>ld</p>			
<p>schwa/er/ or /u/</p> 	<p>-er</p> <p>mix<b>er</b></p>	<p>-our</p> <p>hum<b>our</b></p>	<p>-re</p> <p>theat<b>re</b></p>	<p>-ar</p> <p>coll<b>ar</b></p>	<p>-or</p> <p>sail<b>or</b></p>			
<p>/ar/</p> 	<p>ar</p> <p>art<b>ist</b></p>	<p>-a</p> <p>fa<b>th</b>er</p>	<p>alm</p> <p>pa<b>l</b>m</p>	<p>-alf</p> <p>ha<b>l</b>f</p>	<p>-alv</p> <p>ca<b>l</b>ves</p>			

<p><b>/air/</b></p> 	<p><b>air</b></p> <p>h<b>air</b></p>	<p><b>-are</b></p> <p>h<b>are</b></p>	<p><b>-ear</b></p> <p>b<b>ear</b></p>	<p><b>-ere</b></p> <p>wh<b>ere</b></p>			<p><b>Grey dashes</b> indicate that the particular letter/s-sound correspondence is unlikely to begin a word.</p> <p><b>Hollow letters</b> alert the reader to various possible pronunciations.</p>
<p><b>/eer/</b></p> 	<p><b>eer</b></p> <p>d<b>eer</b></p>	<p><b>ear</b></p> <p><b>ears</b></p>	<p><b>-ere</b></p> <p>adh<b>ere</b></p>	<p><b>-ier</b></p> <p>cash<b>ier</b></p>			<p>This chart is not definitive. You may discover further code and add it to the chart or your main phonics display wall.</p>
<p><b>/zh/</b></p> 	<p><b>-si</b></p> <p>telev<b>ision</b></p>	<p><b>-s</b></p> <p>treasur<b>e</b></p>	<p><b>-z</b></p> <p>azur<b>e</b></p>	<p><b>-g</b></p> <p>cour<b>gette</b></p>	<p><b>-ge</b></p> <p>collag<b>e</b></p>		 <p>Phonics International by Debbie Hepplewhite</p>

\*-y, \*-ey, \*-ie as word endings are often pronounced between /i/ and /ee/. On this chart they appear in the /ee/ row.

**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	Simple code with some spelling alternatives	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 (all within 12 units of resources).