




















The English Alphabetic Code







(alternative chart for USA, Canada and various regional accents)






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









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

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



<p>/u/</p> 	<p>u</p> <p>umbrella</p>	<p>-o</p> <p>son</p>	<p>-ou</p> <p>touch</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^e gi gy</p> <p>gerbil giraffe gymnast</p>	<p>-dge</p> <p>fridge</p>				
<p>/y/</p> 	<p>y</p> <p>yawn</p>							
<p>/ai/</p> 	<p>ai</p> <p>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>cakes</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>yo-yo</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>

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

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

<p>/ch/</p> 	<p>ch chairs</p>	<p>-tch patch</p>					<p>/cher/</p> 	<p>-ture picture</p>
<p>/sh/</p> 	<p>sh sheep</p>	<p>ch chef</p>	<p>-ti station</p>	<p>-ci magician</p>	<p>-ssi admission</p>			
<p>unvoiced /th/</p> 	<p>th thistle</p>							
<p>voiced /th/</p> 	<p>th there</p>							
<p>/kw/</p> 	<p>qu queen</p>							

<p>/ou/</p> 	<p>ou ouch</p>	<p>ow owl</p>	<p>-ough plough</p>						
<p>/oi/</p> 	<p>oi ointment</p>	<p>oy toy</p>							
<p>/yoo/</p> 	<p>-ue barbecue</p>	<p>u unicorn</p>							
<p>/er/</p> 	<p>er mermaid</p>	<p>ir birthday</p>	<p>ur nurse</p>	<p>ear earth</p>	<p>wor world</p>	<p>Canada:</p>	<p>-our humour</p>	<p>-re theatre</p>	
<p>/ar/</p> 	<p>ar artist</p>					<p>USA:</p>	<p>-or humor</p>	<p>-er theater</p>	

/air/ 	air hair	-are hare	-ear bear	-ere where			This chart is not definitive. You may discover further code – add this to the chart and/or main display wall.
/eer/ 	eer deer	ear ears	-ere adhere	-ier cashier			Hollow letters alert the reader to various possible pronunciations.
/zh/ 	-si television	-s treasure	-z azure	-g courgette	-ge collage		 by Debbie Hepplewhite

*-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 include:

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**, /aw/ **thought**, /oo/ **through**, /ou/ **plough**

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).