

Consonant Digraph Examples

The symbols between forward slashes // are used in the UK Government's Letters and Sounds phonics programme. The green symbols in round brackets are used in the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Digraph	Corresponding Phonemes	Example Words	Comments
bb	/b/ (b)	Abbot, gibbon, rabbit, wobble	
bt	/t/ (t)	debt, doubt, subtle	Often referred to as silent 'b'. Very rare correspondence.
bu	/b/ (b)	building, built, buoy	Very rare correspondence.
cc	/k/ (k)	account, hiccup, occur, soccer	
ce	/s/ (s)	bounce, dance, juice, voice	
	/sh/ (ʃ)	ocean, crustacean, sebaceous	Rare correspondence.
ch	/ch/ (tʃ)	chick, child, church, much	Most common sound for this digraph.
	/k/ (k)	anchor, Christmas, chemistry, school	Mostly words borrowed from Greek.
	/sh/ (ʃ)	chalet, chef, machine, brochure	Mostly words borrowed from French.
ci	/sh/ (ʃ)	delicious, racial, special, musician	Uncommon.
ck	/k/ (k)	clock, duck, kick, quack	
dd	/d/ (d)	address, cuddle, ladder, odd	
de	/d/ (d)	aide, blonde, horde	Uncommon.
dg	/j/ (dʒ)	badger, budget, dodgy, fidget	
ed	/d/ (d)	alarm ed , baffled, behaved, camouflaged	
	/t/ (t)	chopped, hopped, jumped, walked	
ff	/f/ (f)	off, cliff, daffodil, muffin	
ge	/j/ (dʒ)	barge, large, sponge, pigeon	
	/zh/ (ʒ)	beige, camouflage, massage, prestige	
gg	/g/ (g)	egg, beggar, giggle, wagging	
gh	/g/ (g)	ghee, ghost, ghastly, gherkin	Often referred to as silent 'h'.
	/f/ (f)	cough, laugh, rough, enough	
gn	/n/ (n)	gnaw, gnome, reign, sign	Often referred to as silent 'g'.
gu	/g/ (g)	guard, guest, guide, disguise	
kk	/k/ (k)	bookkeeping, trekking, yakking	Uncommon.
kn	/n/ (n)	knee, knew, knife, know	Often referred to as silent 'k'.
le	/l/ (l)	apple, beetle, candle, giggle	
ll	/l/ (l)	bell, doll, chill, bully	
mb	/m/ (m)	bomb, comb, lamb, climb	Often referred to as silent 'b'.
mm	/m/ (m)	comma, dummy, hammer, summer	
mn	/m/ (m)	Autumn, column, damn, hymn	Rare. Often referred to as silent 'n'.
ng	/ng/ (ŋ)	bang, bring, king, running	
nn	/n/ (n)	annoy, bunny, dinner, tennis	
pb	/b/ (b)	Campbell, cupboard, raspberry	Rare. Usually represents 2 separate sounds as in 'upbeat'.
ph	/f/ (f)	alphabet, dolphin, elephant, phonics	
pp	/p/ (p)	apple, clapping, dropped, flipper	
ps	/s/ (s)	psalm, psychiatrist, psychic, psychology	Very rare correspondence. Mainly found in words borrowed from Greek.



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qu	/k/ (k)	con q uer, eti q uette, q uiche, mosquito	
	/k/ (k) + /w/ (w)	q uack, Q ueen, q uick, l iquid	Arguable whether this is acting as a digraph in these words as it represents 2 sounds.
rh	/r/ (r)	r hea, r hino, r hythm, r hetorical	Often referred to as silent 'h'.
rr	/r/ (r)	rr el, rr y, rr y, rr ot	
sc	/s/ (s)	de sc end, sc ent, sc issors, sc ience	Often referred to as silent 'c'.
se	/s/ (s)	goose, horse, mouse, collapse	
	/z/ (z)	bro z e, chee z e, plea z e, noi z e	
sh	/sh/ (ʃ)	sh ee p , sh rimp, brush, fish	
si	/zh/ (ʒ)	Asia, divi si on, invasi si on, televi si on	
	/sh/ (ʃ)	extensi si on, mansi si on, pensi si on, tensi si on	
	/z/ (z)	busi si ness	Very rare.
ss	/s/ (s)	bo ss , fu ss , hi ss , bloss ss	
	/z/ (z)	de ss ert, di ss olve, po ss ess, sci ss ors	
	/sh/ (ʃ)	ass ss ure, fiss ss ure, iss ss ue, tiss ss ue	
st	/s/ (s)	brist st le, cast st le, fast st en, list st en	Often referred to as silent 't'.
th	/th/ (θ)	th ank, th in, bath, slo th	
	/th/ (ð)	th is, th en, with, feather	
	/t/ (t)	Est th er, Thom th as, th th yme, Th th ailand	Rare. Mostly names of people or places.
ti	/sh/ (ʃ)	acti ti on, initi ti al, stati ti on, menti ti on	Most common spelling for /sh/.
tt	/t/ (t)	att tt end, butt tt er, kitt tt en, twitt tt er	
ve	/v/ (v)	car ve , deserv ve , groov ve , leav ve	English words don't usually end with the letter v on its own.
wh	/w/ (w)	wh y, wh en, wh ale, wh ere, wh eel	Often referred to as silent 'h'.
	/h/ (h)	wh o, wh ose, wh ole, wh oever	Rare. Often referred to as silent 'w'.
wr	/r/ (r)	wr ap, wr en, wr ist, wr ite	Often referred to as silent 'w'.
ze	/z/ (z)	bre ze e, free ze e, oo ze e, squee ze e	
zz	/z/ (z)	buz zz , dizz zz y, frizz zz y, grizz zz ly	

