

Letter-Sound Correspondences in English

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.

| Letter or Combination of Letters (Graphemes) | Corresponding Sounds (Phonemes) and Example Words | Notes |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a | /a/ (æ) at, alligator, can, bag | The most common correspondence for letter 'a'. Sometimes called 'short a'. |
| | /ai/ (eɪ) apron, alien, angel, baby, cradle, lady | Sometimes called 'long a'. This is the most common correspondence for the /ai/ sound. |
| | /o/ (ɒ) was*, wand, what, swan, squash | Uncommon – mostly after 'w'. *Pronounced as 'wuz' in some accents. |
| | /ɑ:/ (ɑː) father, lather, rather, bath*, grass*, last* | Uncommon. Examples with asterisk are mainly found in the accents of people in the south of England. |
| | /e/ (e) any, many | Rare correspondence. |
| | /ɔ:/ (ɔː) water | Rare correspondence. |
| | /ə/ (ə) ago, about, banana, gorilla | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| ae | /ai/ (eɪ) Gaelic, Israel, reggae, vertebrae | Uncommon. |
| | /e/ (e) haemorrhage, haemorrhoids | UK spelling. Rare. |
| | /ee/ (iː) Aeon, algae, haemophilia, paediatrician | Mostly UK spellings. |
| | /igh/ (aɪ) maestro, taekwondo, curriculum vitae | Rare correspondence. |
| a-e | /ai/ (eɪ) ape, bake, cave, snake, tale | Split digraph, sometimes called 'magic e'. |
| | /i/ (ɪ) baggage, cabbage, damage, language | |
| | /a/ (æ) have | Rare. |
| ai | /ai/ (eɪ) aim, brain, faint, snail, waist | Most common sound for this digraph. |
| | /i/ (ɪ) or /ə/ (ə) captain, mountain, fountain | The actual sound spoken depends on individual accents. |
| | /e/ (e) again, said | Rare sound for this digraph. |
| | /a/ (æ) plaid, plait | Rare sound for this digraph. |



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| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| air | /air/ (eə) | chair, fair, hair, stair | Trigraph. |
| al | /a/ (æ) + /l/ (l) | Alps, scalp, talc, Val | |
| | /l/ (l) | animal, capital, hospital | |
| | /or/ (ɔ:) | talk, walk, chalk, stalk | Acting as a digraph - usually before 'k'. |
| | /or/ (ɔ:) + /l/ (l) | also, always, alright, already | |
| | /ar/ (ɑ:) | half, calm, calve, palm | Also acting as a digraph, but less common. |
| | /a/ (æ) | salmon | Very rare. |
| all | /a/ (æ) + /l/ (l) | shall | Rare correspondence. |
| | /or/ (ɔ:) + /l/ (l) | all, ball, call, fall | Quite common. |
| ar | /ar/ (ɑ:) | arm, car, dark, farm | Most common sound for this digraph |
| | /or/ (ɔ:) | dwarf, war, wardrobe, wart | Uncommon – usually after 'w'. |
| | /air/ (eə) | area, Mary, vary | Uncommon. |
| | /ə/ (ə) (British and Australian accents) (ə) (American accents) | cellar, dollar, nectar, vinegar | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| are | /air/ (eə) | bare, care, glare hare | Trigraph |
| | /ar/ (ɑ:) | are | Very rare sound for this trigraph. |
| au | /or/ (ɔ:) | August, caught, haunt, pause | |
| | /o/ (ɒ) | Australia, because, fault, vault | Uncommon. |
| | /ar/ (ɑ:) | aunt, draught, laugh | Rare - can be pronounced as /a/ for ant in the north of England. |
| augh | /or/ (ɔ:) | caught, daughter, naughty, taught | Rare correspondence. |
| | /a/ (æ) + /f/ (f) | draught, laugh | Rare correspondence. |
| aw | /or/ (ɔ:) | awful, crawl, draw, saw | |
| ay | /ai/ (eɪ) | day, play, say, tray | |
| b | /b/ (b) | boy, big, ability, crab | |
| bb | /b/ (b) | Abbot, gibbon, rabbit, wobble | |
| bt | /t/ (t) | debt, doubt, subtle | Digraph. Often referred to as silent 'b'. Very rare correspondence. |
| bu | /b/ (b) | building, built, buoy | Very rare correspondence. |
| c | /k/ (k) | cat, cub, cornflakes, cotton | |
| | /s/ (s) | cell, city, cycle, cent, icy | Usually before 'e', 'i' or 'y' |



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| | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| cc | /k/ (k) | account, hiccup, occur, soccer | |
| | /k/ (k) + /s/ (s) | accent, access, success, vaccine | Uncommon. |
| 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. |
| | /k/ (k) + /w/ (w) | choir | Rare. |
| ci | /sh/ (ʃ) | delicious, racial, special, musician | Uncommon. |
| ck | /k/ (k) | clock, duck, kick, quack | |
| d | /d/ (d) | Dad, drink, dress, and | |
| dd | /d/ (d) | address, cuddle, ladder, odd | |
| de | /d/ (d) | aide, blonde, horde | Uncommon. |
| dg | /j/ (dʒ) | badger, budget, dodgy, fidget | |
| dge | /j/ (dʒ) | badge, fudge, fridge, porridge | Trigraph |
| e | /e/ (e) | bed, desk, egg, pen | |
| | /ee/ (i:) | be, demon, evil, he, me | |
| | /i/ (ɪ) | England, college, knowledge, pretty | |
| | /ə/ (ə) | effect, elephant, bulletin, the* | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. *'The' is pronounced as 'thee' before a vowel. |
| ea | /ee/ (i:) | beach, clean, eat, meal | Most common sound for 'ea'. |
| | /e/ (e) | bread, dead, feather, head | |
| | /ai/ (eɪ) | break, great, steak, Reagan | Rare correspondence. |
| ear | /ear/ (ɪə) | beard, disappear, hear, spear | |
| | /ur/ (ɜ: Br. or ɜ US) | Earth, heard, learn, pearl | Uncommon. |
| | /air/ (eə) | Bear, pear, tear, wear | Rare correspondence. |
| | /ar/ (ɑ:) | heart, hearth | Very rare correspondence. |
| eau | /oa/ (əʊ or oʊ) | chateau, gateau, plateau | Very rare correspondence. Mainly found in words borrowed from French. |
| ed | /d/ (d) | alarmed, baffled, behaved, camouflaged | |
| | /t/ (t) | chopped, hopped, jumped, walked | |



Letter-Sound Correspondences in English

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| | /ə/ (ə) + /d/ (d) alerted, beard ed , land ed , want ed | /ə/ represents schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| ee | /ee/ (i:) bee, che ee se, ge ee se, she ee p | |
| e-e | /ee/ (i:) ath le te, comp e te, phon e me, the se | Split digraph, also known as 'magic e'. |
| eer | /ear/ (iə) be er , che er , de er , me er kat | |
| ei | /ee/ (i:) ce il ing, prote i n, rece i ve, se i ze | Rare correspondence. |
| | /ai/ (eɪ) be i ge, fe i nt, re i ndeer, ve i l | Rare correspondence. |
| | /e/ (e) he i fer, le i sure (British accents) | Very rare correspondence. |
| eir | /air/ (eə) he i r, he i rloom, the i r | Very rare correspondence. |
| eigh | /ai/ (eɪ) e igh t, fre igh t, we igh t, ne igh bour | Uncommon. |
| | /igh/ (aɪ) he igh t, sle igh t | Rare correspondence. |
| er | /ur/ (ɜ: Br. or ɝ US) fe rn , ge rm , he r , pe rs on | |
| | /ear/ (iə) cafete r ia, ce r eal, he r o, ze r o | |
| | /ə/ (ə) af ter , bu tt er, co rn er, si st er (British and Australian Accents) | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| | /ar/ (ɑ:) cl er k, De r by, se r geant | |
| | /r/ (r) e ve ry ca me ra (and dif fe rent in some accents) | 'Silent e.' |
| ere | /ear/ (iə) at mo sphere, ca sh mere, he r e, si nc ere | Uncommon. |
| | /ur/ (ɜ: Br. or ɝ US) we r e | Very rare correspondence. |
| | /air/ (eə) co mp ere, the r e, whe r e, pre mi ere | Rare correspondence. |
| eu | /oo/ (u:) sle u th, le u kaemia, rhe u matism | Rare |
| | /y/ (j) + /oo/ (u:) E urope, fe u d, ne u ron, pne u monia | Uncommon. |
| ew | /oo/ (u:) ble w , che w , fle w , gre w | |
| | /y/ (j) + /oo/ (u:) de w , fe w , ne w , nep h ew, ske w er | The /y/ sound isn't spoken in all these words in some accents. |
| | /oa/ (əʊ or oʊ) se w | Very rare correspondence. |
| ey | /ee/ (i:) abb ey , don key , hone y , mon key | |
| | /ai/ (eɪ) he y , pre y , the y , obe y | Less common correspondence than /ee/ sound for 'ey'. |
| f | /f/ (f) fa n , fi t , fo x , de f use | |
| | /v/ (v) o f | Very rare correspondence but 'of' is a common word. |
| ff | /f/ (f) o ff , cl iff , da ff odil, mu ff in | |



Letter-Sound Correspondences in English

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| g | /g/ (g) | got, Gran, argue, began | |
| | /j/ (dʒ) | gel, gym, giraffe, angel | Usually before 'e', 'i' or 'y'. |
| 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 | Digraph. Often referred to as silent 'h'. |
| | /f/ (f) | cough, laugh, rough, enough | Digraph. |
| gn | /n/ (n) | gnaw, gnome, reign, sign | Digraph. Often referred to as silent 'g'. |
| | /g/ (g) + /n/ (n) | gnu, magnet, cygnet, ignite | Consonant blend. |
| gu | /g/ (g) | guard, guest, guide, disguise | Digraph (or silent 'u'). |
| h | /h/ (h) | hat, hug, happy, behind | |
| i | /i/ (ɪ) | it, bin, chip, digger | Very common correspondence. |
| | /igh/ (aɪ) | blind, child, giant, lion | |
| | /ee/ (i:) | happier, pizza, ski, taxi | |
| | /y/ (j) | onion, preview, Spaniard, union | Rare correspondence. |
| | /ə/ (ə) | cavity, delicate, horrible, president | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| ie | /igh/ (aɪ) | cried, flies, pie, satisfied | Uncommon. |
| | /ee/ (i:) | achieve, belief, chief, field | |
| | /e/ (e) | friend | Very rare correspondence. |
| i-e | /igh/ (aɪ) | bike, dice, hide, kite | Split digraph, sometimes called 'magic e' – quite a common correspondence. |
| | /i/ (ɪ) | give, lived, engine, evasive | Relatively uncommon. |
| | /ee/ (i:) | elite, machine, police, sardine | Relatively uncommon. |
| ier | /ear/ (ɪə) | cashier, fierce, pier, tier | |
| igh | /igh/ (aɪ) | bright, high, light, right | |
| ir | /ur/ (ɜ: Br. or ɜ US) | bird, chirp, dirt, girl | |
| j | /j/ (dʒ) | jam, jet, jump, enjoy | |
| k | /k/ (k) | kangaroo, kid, sketch, bike | |
| kk | /k/ (k) | bookkeeping, trekking, yakking | Uncommon. |



Letter-Sound Correspondences in English

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| kn | /n/ (n) | knee, knew, knife, know | Digraph. Often referred to as silent 'k'. |
| l | /l/ (l) | leg, lip, black, camel | |
| le | /l/ (l) or /ə/ (ə) + /l/ (l) | apple, beetle, candle, giggle | |
| ll | /l/ (l) | bell, doll, chill, bully | |
| m | /m/ (m) | mad, mix, gum, chimp | |
| mb | /m/ (m) | bomb, comb, lamb, climb | Digraph. Often referred to as silent 'b'. |
| mm | /m/ (m) | comma, dummy, hammer, summer | |
| mn | /m/ (m) | Autumn, column, damn, hymn | Digraph. Often referred to as silent 'n' - rare |
| n | /n/ (n) | nap, nettle, pan, hand | |
| | /ng/ (ŋ) | blank, junk, pink, jungle, single | |
| ng | /ng/ (ŋ) | bang, bring, king, running | |
| nn | /n/ (n) | annoy, bunny, dinner, tennis | |
| ngue | /ng/ (ŋ) | tongue, meringue | Rare correspondence. |
| o | /ɒ/ (ɒ) | dog, God, hot, on | |
| | /oʊ/ (əʊ or oʊ) | cold, echo, go, oval, so | |
| | /u/ (ʌ) | front, monkey, month, won | |
| | /oo/ (u:) | do, who, to, tomb | Rare correspondence. |
| | /or/ (ɔ:) | dog, job | Some American accents. |
| | /ə/ (ə) | carrot, observe, offend, parrot | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| | /i/ (ɪ) | women | Very rare correspondence. |
| oa | /oʊ/ (əʊ or oʊ) | cloak, goat, loaf, soap | |
| | /or/ (ɔ:) | abroad, broad | Rare correspondence. |
| oar | /or/ (ɔ:) | boar, board, roar, soar | Rare correspondence. |
| oe | /oʊ/ (əʊ or oʊ) | doe, goes, Joe, tomatoes | |
| | /ee/ (i:) | amoeba, diarrhoea, foetus, oestrogen | Mainly UK spellings. |
| | /oo/ (u:) | canoe, shoe | Rare correspondence. |
| o-e | /oʊ/ (əʊ or oʊ) | alone, choke, home, nose | Split digraph, sometimes called 'magic e'. |
| | /u/ (ʌ) | come, done, love, some | |
| | /oo/ (u:) | lose, move, prove | Rare correspondence. |



Letter-Sound Correspondences in English

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| oi | /oi/ (ɔɪ) | av oi d, b oi l, c oi n, o in k | |
| oo | /oo/ (u:) | ballo oo n, foo o d, ro oo m, to o | |
| | /oo/ (ʊ) | bo oo k, fo oo t, go oo d, lo oo k | |
| | /u/ (ʌ) | blo oo d, flo oo d | Rare correspondence. |
| oor | /or/ (ɔ:) | do or , flo or , mo or | Very rare correspondence. |
| | /ure/ (ʊə) | po or , po or ly | Very rare correspondence. Can be pronounced as /ooer/ or /or/ depending on different accents. |
| or | /or/ (ɔ:) | bo rn , co rk , fo r , ho rs e | Most common correspondence for 'or'. |
| | /ur/(ɜ: Br. or ɜ US) | att or ney, wo rd , wo rk , wo rd | Uncommon. |
| | /ə/ (ə) | do ct or, mirr or , sail or , tract or (British and Australian Accents) | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| ore | /or/ (ɔ:) | cho r e, mo r e, sto r e, wo r e | |
| ou | /ow/ (aʊ) | bo un ce, clo u d, fo un tain, ho u se | Most common correspondence for 'ou'. |
| | /u/ (ʌ) | co u sin, to u ch, ro u gh, yo u ng | Less common correspondence for 'ou'. |
| | /oa/ (əʊ or oʊ) | bo u lder, mo u ld (UK), sho u lder, so u l | Rare correspondence. |
| | /oo/ (u:) | gro u p, so u p, yo u , to u can | Rare correspondence. |
| | /ə/ (ə) | anxi o us, eno u mous, hide o us, serio u s | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| ough | /or/ (ɔ:) | bo u ght, fo u ght, tho u ght | Rare correspondence. |
| | /ow/ (aʊ) | bo u gh, dro u ght, plo u gh | Very rare correspondence. |
| | /ə/ (ə) | Bo u gh, tho u gh | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. Rare correspondence. |
| | /oa/ (əʊ or oʊ) | altho u gh, do u gh, furl o ugh, tho u gh | Rare correspondence. |
| | /oo/ (u:) | thro u gh | Very rare correspondence. |
| oul | /oo/ (ʊ) | co u ld, sho u ld, wo u ld | Very rare correspondence. |
| our | /ow/ (aʊ) + /ə/ (ə) | fl o ur, ho u r, sco u r, so u r | /ə/ represents the schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| | /or/ (ɔ:) | co u rs e , fo u r, mo u rn, yo u r | |
| | /ur/(ɜ: Br. or ɜ US) | adj o urn, co u rt e sy, gl o u r , jo u rn e y | Rare correspondence. |
| | /ure/ (ʊə) | to u r, Lo u rd e s | Rare. Can be pronounced as /ooer/ or /or/ depending on different accents. |
| | /ə/ (ə) | arm o ur, flav o ur, hum o ur, neigh o ur (UK) | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |



Letter-Sound Correspondences in English

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ow | /ow/ (əʊ) | allow, cow, flower, how | Both sound correspondences for 'ow' have a similar frequency in words. |
| | /oa/ (əʊ or oʊ) | arrow, blow, grow, thrown | |
| oy | /oi/ (ɔɪ) | annoy, boy, enjoy, toy | |
| p | /p/ (p) | pan, pet, cup, spell | |
| 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. |
| q | /k/ (k) | Qatar, Iraq, Iqra | Usually names of places or people. |
| qu | /k/ (k) + /w/ (w) | quack, Queen, quick, liquid | The letter q is almost always paired up with the letter u in English words. |
| | /k/ (k) | conquer, etiquette, quiche, mosquito | Acting as a digraph. |
| r | /r/ (r) | rat, red, brush, coral | |
| re | /ə/ (ə) | acre, centre (UK), mediocre, ogre | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| rh | /r/ (r) | rhea, rhino, rhythm, rhetorical | Digraph. Often referred to as silent 'h'. |
| rr | /r/ (r) | barrel, carry, hurry, parrot | |
| s | /s/ (s) | sad, snake, desk, ducks | |
| | /z/ (z) | has, is, beans, frogs | Quite common. |
| | /sh/ (ʃ) | sugar, sure, capsule | Rare correspondence. |
| | /zh/ (ʒ) | casual, measure, pleasure, leisure | Mostly when 's' is before -ion or -ure but there are other examples such as usual. |
| sc | /s/ (s) + /k/ (k) | scab, scar, scoop, scheme | 'Sc' as 2 blended sounds. |
| | /s/ (s) | descend, scent, scissors, science | 'Sc' as a digraph. Often referred to as silent 'c'. |
| se | /s/ (s) | goose, horse, mouse, collapse | Digraph. Often referred to as silent 'e'. |
| | /z/ (z) | browse, cheese, please, noise | Digraph. |
| sh | /sh/ (ʃ) | sheep, shrimp, brush, fish | Digraph. |
| si | /zh/ (ʒ) | Asia, division, invasion, television | |



Letter-Sound Correspondences in English

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | /sh/ (ʃ) | extension, mansion, pension tension | |
| | /z/ (z) | business | Very rare |
| ss | /s/ (s) | boss, fuss, hiss, blossom | |
| | /z/ (z) | dessert, dissolve, possess, scissors | |
| | /sh/ (ʃ) | assure, fissure, issue, tissue | |
| st | /s/ (s) + /t/ (t) | start, stop, fast, last | Represents 2 blended sounds. |
| | /s/ (s) | bristle, castle, fasten, listen | Digraph. Often referred to as silent 't'. |
| t | /t/ (t) | top, it, rat, pointed | |
| | /ch/ (tʃ) | culture, mixture, punctual, statue | |
| tch | /ch/ (tʃ) | catch, fetch, match, witch | |
| th | /th/ (θ) | thank, thin, bath, sloth | |
| | /th/ (ð) | this, then, with, feather | |
| | /t/ (t) | Esther, Thomas, thyme, Thailand | Rare. Mostly names of people or places. |
| ti | /sh/ (ʃ) | action, initial, station, mention | |
| tt | /t/ (t) | attend, butter, kitten, twitter | |
| u | /u/ (ʌ) | up, under, duck, butter | This sound isn't spoken in some parts of the north of England. 'U' represents the same sound as 'oo' in 'foot' or 'took' there. |
| | /oo/ (ʊ) | bull, full, put, push | |
| | /oo/ (u:) | brutal, flu, super, truant | Quite common correspondence. |
| | /y/ (j) + /oo/ (u:) | cucumber, emu, human, music | Quite common correspondence. |
| | /w/ (w) | penguin, language | Very rare correspondence. |
| ue | /oo/ (u:) | blue, clue, glue, true | |
| | /y/ (j) + /oo/ (u:) | argue, cue, rescue, venue | |
| u-e | /oo/ (u:) | fluke, June, rude, salute | Split digraph, sometimes called 'magic e'. |
| | /y/ (j) + /oo/ (u:) | amuse, costume, cute, mule | |
| ui | /i/ (ɪ) | build, biscuit, circuit | Rare correspondence. |
| | /oo/ (u:) | bruise, cruise, fruit, juice | Rare correspondence. |
| ur | /ur/ (ɜ: Br. or ɜ US) | burn, fur, hurt, nurse | |



Letter-Sound Correspondences in English

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | /ə/ (ə) | Arthur, lemur, murmur, sulfur (British and Australian Accents) | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| ure | /ure/ (ʊə) | cure, sure, lure, endure | Can be pronounced as /ooer/ or /yooer/ or /or/ depending on the individual words and different accents. |
| | /ə/ (ə) | capture, creature, picture, vulture | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| uy | /igh/ (aɪ) | buy, guy | Very rare correspondence. |
| v | /v/ (v) | van, avenue, beaver, heaven | |
| ve | /v/ (v) | carve, deserve, groove, leave | English words don't usually end with the letter v on its own. |
| w | /w/ (w) | wag, wet, swim, reward | |
| wh | /w/ (w) or /h/ (h) + /w/ (w) in some accents. | why, when, whale, where, wheel | Digraph. Often described as silent 'h'. |
| | /h/ (h) | who, whose, whole, whoever | Digraph. Often described as silent 'w'. Rare correspondence. |
| wr | /r/ (r) | wrap, wren, wrist, write | Digraph. Often described as silent 'w'. |
| x | /k/ (k) + /s/ (s) | box, fox, mix, oxygen | |
| | /z/ (z) | xenon, xenophobia, xylophone | Rare correspondence. |
| | /g/ (g) + /z/ (z) | exact, exam, example, exist | |
| y | /y/ (j) | yak, yes, yellow, Kenya | |
| | /i/ (ɪ) | crystal, gym, myth, system | |
| | /ee/ (i:) | baby, Daddy, funny, very | Most common correspondence for 'y'. |
| | /igh/ (aɪ) | by, cyclone, dry, my | |
| | /ə/ (ə) | bicycle, mysterious, pyjamas, syringe | Schwa sound. Similar to 'uh'. |
| ye | /igh/ (aɪ) | dye, goodbye, rye | Rare correspondence. |
| y-e | /igh/ (aɪ) | analyse, style, type, tyre | Split digraph. Rare correspondence. |
| z | /z/ (z) | zip, zebra, doze, lizard | |
| ze | /z/ (z) | breeze, freeze, ooze, squeeze | |
| zz | /z/ (z) | buzz, dizzy, frizzy, grizzly | |



Letter-Sound Correspondences in English

*Letters and Sounds: Principles and Practice of High Quality Phonics: Notes of Guidance for Practitioners and Teachers, Primary National Strategy. Department for Education and Skills, 2007.

For an even more comprehensive list see Spelfabet: <https://www.spelfabet.com.au/spelling-lists/sorted-by-spelling/>

To listen to the phonemes represented with the International Phonetic Alphabet Chart, you can download a [phonemic chart with audio](#) from the British Council.

You can listen to the phonemes represented by ordinary letters on [Oxford Owls Phonics Audio Guide](#).

