

spelling chart | consonants

sounds & syllables

the sensible spelling system

/b/



b butterfly
-bb- rubbish
-be cube
bu- build

/k/



c cat
k kitten
-ck sock
-ke bake
qu quick
ch- school
-cc- soccer
qu- conquer
que cheque

/ch/



ch cheese
tu nature
-tch catch
stion question
c- cello

/d/



d dog
-dd- teddy
-de ride
-ed turned

/f/



f fish
ph photo
-ff sniff
-fe knife
ugh laugh
-ften soften

/g/



g gift
-gg- wiggle
gh- ghost
gu- guess
-gue league

/h/



h hat
wh- whole

/j/



j jar
g giant
-ge, i, y fringe
-dge fudge
-gi- region
-dg- badger
adj- adjust

/l/



l leaf
-ll pull
-le pile
-lle gazelle

/ul/



-le bottle

/m/



m mouse
-mm- summer
-me some
-mb thumb
-mn autumn

/um/



sm prism

/n/



n nail
-nn- funny
-ne one
gn sign
kn- knot

/ng/



-ng king
-ng, k wink
-ngue tongue

/p/



p pan
-pp- happy
-pe ape

/r/



r rabbit
-rr- carry
wr- wrist
rh- rhyme

/s/



s sun
-ss hiss
-se horse
ce, i, y cell
-ce dance
sc, e, i, y scent
-stle, en castle
-sse crevasse
sw- sword

/sh/



sh shoe
-ti- action
-ci- special
-si- mansion
-ssi- mission
ch- chef
-ssu pressure
su sugar

/zh/



-su treasure
-si- vision
-ge collage
g- genre

/t/



t tree
-tt- bottle
-te late
-ed tipped
-tte rosette
-bt doubt
pt receipt

/th/



th thumb

/th/



th feather
-the breathe

/v/



v van
-ve love
-f of

/w/



w water
-u- quick
wh- why

/ks/



-x box
-xe axe

/gz/



ex- exit

/y/



y yarn
-i- onion

/z/



z zombie
-zz buzz
-s his
-se nose
-ze freeze
x- xylophone

spelling chart | vowels

sounds & syllables

the sensible spelling system

/a/



a- apple
-ai- plait

/e/



e- egg
-ea- bread
a- many
-ai- said
-ei- leisure
-ie- friend
-u- bury

/i/



i- igloo
-y- myth
-a- cottage
e- pretty
-u- busy

/o/



o- octopus
wa- watch
-au- sausage
-ough- cough

/u/



u- umbrella
o- glove
-oo- blood
-ou- young

/oo/



-oo- book
-u- push
-o- wolf
-ould- could

/ae/



ai- train
-ay- play
a- paper
-ea_{k,t}- break
-ei- vein
-ey- grey
eight_t eight
-aight- straight
-et- ballet

/ee/



ee bee
ea seat
e me
-y- baby
-i- alien
-ey- monkey
-ie- thief
-ei- ceiling
-ae- algae

/ie/



-ie- pie
i find
-y- fly
-ight- night
-ei- feisty
-eight- height
-ye- dye

/oy/



oi- coins
oy boy

/ow/



ou- house
ow crown
-ough- plough

/oe/



oa- boat
o go
ow slow
-oe- toe
-ough- dough
-eau- plateau

/ue/



-oo- moon
-u- truth
-o- move
-ew- chew
-ue- blue

-ou- soup
-ui- fruit
-oe- shoe
-ough- through
-eu- sleuth

/yue/



u- cube
-ew- few
-ue- value
eu- euphoria

/ar/



ar car
a- father
al- half
hear- heart

/air/



air chair
-are- care
-ear- bear
-ere- where
aer- aerial
-eir- heir
-aire- solitaire

/eer/



ear hear
-ere- here
-eer- cheer
-ier- fierce

/or/



or horn
-ore- more
aw draw
a_{l,l} ball
au- haunt
war_m warm
-oor- door

-our- four
oar board
-alk- walk
ought bought
aught caught
-aur- dinosaur

/oor/



-oor- poor
-ure- sure
-our- tour

/yoor/



-ure- cure
eur- eureka

/ur/



er germ
ir bird
ur burger
wor- worm
ear- earth
-our- journey
-ere- were

/uh/



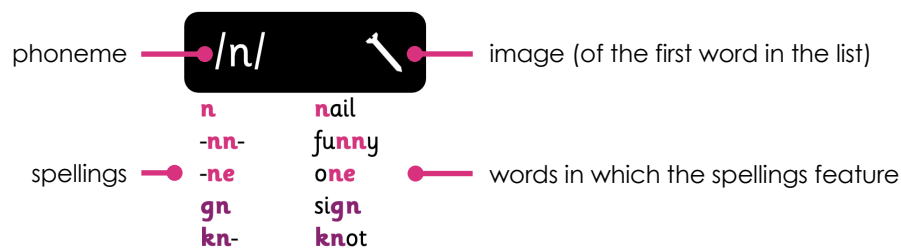
-er- spider
a along
-o- lesson
-e- oven
-i- evil
-u- circus
-ai- captain
-ou- famous

-ar- collar
-or- doctor
-our- flavour
-ure- treasure
-re- metre
-y- vinyl
-ah- cheetah

The Sounds & Syllables spelling chart shows how the phonemes of British English* are represented by spellings. It does not aim to be a complete representation of how spellings map onto these sounds but includes 247 sound-spelling matches – every frequently encountered match and some less frequent ones too. Any matches not included will be rarely encountered. The matches are separated into consonants (page 1) and vowels (page 2).

sound-spelling groups

There are 28 sound-spelling groups displayed on the consonant page (24 consonant phonemes and 4 diphones**) and 22 sound-spelling groups on the vowel page (20 vowel phonemes and 2 diphones). Each group contains a black box in which the phoneme (between / / symbols as is conventional) and an image is displayed. Below is a list of spellings for the phoneme and a word in which the spelling features.



spellings

The spellings are listed in order of frequency that they represent the phoneme, with those at the top being the most frequent spellings. Spellings in pink (**n**, **nn** and **ne**) are those in the main spelling system and occur more frequently; spellings in purple (**gn** and **kn**) are rarer spellings.

Dashes before and after spellings indicate the position that a spelling is typically (but not necessarily exclusively) found within words.

A spelling with no dashes indicates that it is found in all positions with a word

n **nail** **sun** **planet**

A spelling with a dash to its right indicates that letters usually follow it. As such it does not typically end words.

kn- **know** **knight** **kneel**

A spelling with a dash to its left indicates that letters usually precede it. As such it does not typically begin words.

-ne **one** **line** **engine**

A spelling with a dash either side indicates that letters usually precede and follow it. As such it is typically found in the middle of words.

-nn- **funny** **tunnel** **bonnet**

A spelling with letters before it indicates that these letters typically (but not always) precede the spelling.

war **warm** **warn** **award**

A spelling with letters after it indicates that these letters typically (but not always) follow the spelling.

ce,i,y **cell** **city** **icy**

*it is impossible to capture the rich variety of accents and pronunciations on spelling chart (for example, some accents do not distinguish between /u/ (put) and /oo/ (book))

**a diphone is a spelling that represents two phonemes