

Phonemic Awareness

Students: The sounds of English can be very confusing. Knowing the basic sounds of English and their spellings will help your reading, writing and spelling. The following pages may look easy, but read the following poem.

Hints on Pronunciation for Foreigners

I take it you already know
of tough and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble but not you,
on hiccough, thorough, laugh and through.
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,
to learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of heard, a dreadful word
that looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead: it's said like bed, not bead;
For goodness' sake don't call it 'deed'!
Watch out for neat and great and threat
They rhyme with suite and straight and debt.)

A moth is not a moth in mother
Nor both in bother, broth in brother,
And here is not a match for there,
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,
And then there's dose and rose and lose--
Just look them up--and goose and choose.



And cork and work and cards and ward
And font and front and word and sword.
And do and go and thwart and cart--
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!
A dreadful language? Man alive!
I'd mastered it when I was five.
credited to Hornsby & Shear







To what extent do I understand English phonemes?












How can understanding English phonemes help me with my English reading and writing?

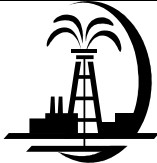







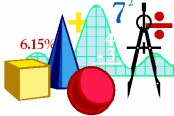

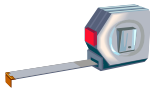
How do I use my understanding of English phonemes to improve my reading and writing?

Common American English Phonemes & Spellings

Phoneme	Keyword	Keyword Picture	Examples
/A/	train		a_e same, made, state, name ai rain, wait, tail, brain ay say, away, play, day eigh neighbor, weigh, eight, sleigh
/a/	cat		a add, subtract, an, and, animal, cat, ask, as
/b/	bat		b bit, but, between believe, break, above, rub, table
/k/	key		c act, call, can, class k kind, look, work, take ck back, sack, sick, quick
/d/	door		d did, differ, don't, loud, old, had, bad, good
/E/	bee		e me, we, be, even, he, she ee bee, keep, need, three, tree ea each, read, real, clean y many, very, baby, necessary
/e/	jet		e pet, end, left, spend, never ea head, read, bread, measure
/f/	fish		f few, find, follow, family ph phone, telephone, phony, photograph gh laugh, cough
/g/	gas		g get, good, bag, give, great, go, grow
/h/	hot		h hot, he, hi, help, her, high, him, happy

Phoneme	Keyword	Keyword Picture	Examples
/ɪ/	light		i I i_e like, life, side, time igh night, light, might, right y by, try, my, fly
/i/	mitt		i if, it, is, mitt, finish, inch, miss, mix
/j/	jet		j jet, just, job, joy, jump, object dge edge, badge, pledge, ledge g(e,i,y) change, gym, wage, danger
/l/	lamp		l lamp, light, land, last, tell, tall, spell, call
/m/	map		m map, menu, man, mean, home, come, came, simple
/n/	nine	9	n new, sentence, and, name kn know, knock, knee, know
/o/	coat		o cold, only, zero, so oa oak, road, boat, loan o_e close, home, rode, note ow low, slow, know, own
/ɒ/	stop		o stop, top, on, off, drop, bottom, lost, solve
/p/	picture		p page, people, picture, place, plant, play, sleep, reply
/kw/	queen		qu queen, quick, quiet, question
/r/	write		r right, run, or wr write, wrong, wrist er under, over, other ur turn, hurt, plural ir bird, girl, third

Phoneme	Keyword	Keyword Picture	Examples
/s/	sun		S start, small, baseball SS press, dress, kiss, class c(e,i,y) cent, century, city, Celsius
/t/	tent		t to, two, too, tent, want, fit, sit
/U/	music		u future, cue u_e use, cute, huge
/u/	umbrella		u gun, us, up, cut a about, again, a, above o some, wagon, done, person
/v/	volleyball		v very, have, leave, live, never
/w/	water		w water, world, want, work
/ks/ or /gz/	exit		x box, example, exit, next
/y/	yes		y you, your, you're, year, yes, yet, yard, young
/z/	nose		Z zoo, zipper, lazy, size S nose, shoes, schools, was
/OO/	boot		oo food, soon, school, room u_e rude, rule, produce, ew knew, chew, new, blew ! to, too, two !
/oo/	book		oo book, took, good, look

Phoneme	Keyword	Keyword Picture	Examples
/oi/	oil		oi point, oil, boil, voice oy toy, boy, employ, enjoy
/ou/	cow		ou found, our, out, count, noun ow now, how, vowel, down
/aw/	saw		aw saw, crawl, law, draw au cause, pause, clause, gauze al talk, tall, call, fall
/ar/	car		ar car, large, part, start
/sh/	ship		sh ship, shape, fish, English ti nation, vacation ci special, commercial
/hw/	whistle		wh wheel, while, white, where
/ch/	check		ch change, children, machine tch catch, match, watch
/th/ voiced	mother		th brother, them, mother, father
/th/ unvoiced	math		th math, with, three, both
/ng/	sing		ng sing, thing, bring, song n think, sink, blink, ink
/zh/	measure		s measure, leisure, pleasure, treasure

Visit the phonemic awareness page in the **reading** area of the ESL File Cabinet, www.eslfilecabinet.com, for worksheets, quizzes and mp3 audio.