

Rule Card #1

The 16 Constant Consonants

B D F H J K L M N P Q R T V X Z

b d f h j k l m n p q r t v x z
 These 16 consonants usually make only one sound each. The underlined letters are *whispered*. Just *whisper* them.

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Rule Card #2 © academic associates learning centers®

The Vowels

A E I O U W Y

The short vowel sounds are:

a as in **at**

e as in **Ed**

i as in **it**

o as in **odd**

u as in **up**

W and Y sometimes act as vowels.

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The Long Vowels

a as in **ate**

e as in **he**

i as in **hi**

o as in **open**

u (1) as in **mute**

u (2) as in **rule**

u (3) as in **put**

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The Magic E

An **e** close behind another vowel (with no more than one letter in between) usually makes the first vowel long, and the **e** is usually silent.

mad + e = made pet + e = Pete Tim + e = time
 kit + e = kite hop + e = hope dud + e = dude
 trade pollute label meet bike hotel fleet
 tribe home pure ape drone nine tribute

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The Y Rules

- Y** makes its consonant sound at the beginning of words: yet yell yip yam yak yelp yap
- Short i**: Lynn pyramid (Y copies short i in mid-syllable.)
- Long i**: my try fly (Y copies long i at the end of a word or syllable if it is the only vowel in the word or syllable.)
- Long e**: baby funny fluffy (Y usually copies long e at the end of a word after a consonant if there is another vowel.)
- Short u**: Babylon platypus odyssey paralysis
- Silent**: day play valley volley baloney (Y is always silent at the end of a word after a or e, & the a or e is long.)

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The S Rules

- S** usually makes a hissing sound: sit Sam seven
- When surrounded by vowels, **s** usually copies **z**:
rose nose rise laser muse miser hose
- At the end of a word, **s** copies **z**: elms pens subs
- At the end of a word, **s** makes its hissing sound after *whispered* letters (f k p s t) or their *sounds*:
puffs silks tips bless bats—safes bikes tapes
kites

Rule Card #7

The C Rule

C copies **s** before **e, i** or **y**:

cent city cyst

Otherwise it copies **k**:

cab cot craft

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The G Rule

G usually copies **j** before

e, i or **y**:

gem gin gym hinge revenge

Otherwise it says its own *guh* sound:

gap go grab

Rule Card #9

The W Rules

1. **W at the beginning of a word usually makes its own sound: wet win won**
2. **W at the end of a word is a vowel and is usually silent: low blow mow glow**
3. **W before r is silent: wren write wrote wreck wrap wrest wrist**

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Rule Card #10 © academic associates learning centers®

All Vowels Can Be Magic

When two vowels are close together, usually the first one says its name and the second one is silent. All seven vowels can be magic.

boat date sail tube dilute
bean wage suit eat snow
soul day people valley diode

Rule Card #11

Homonyms—Antonyms—Synonyms

Homonyms are words that sound alike but are spelled differently and mean different things:

mane—main toe—tow meet—mete—meat

Antonyms are words that mean the opposite:

go—stop big—little cold—hot on—off

Synonyms are words that mean the same thing:

fast—swift road—street happy—glad

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Rule Card #12 © academic associates learning centers®

A is a Nonagon

1. **Short a as in mat**
2. **Long a as in mate**
3. **Short e as in any**
4. **Short i as in village**
5. **Short o as in wad**
6. **Long o as in war**
7. **Short u as in America**
8. **Aw as in all**
9. **Silent as in boat**

A usually copies short U at the end of a word—tuna.

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E is a Hexagon

1. short e as in Ed
2. long e as in he
3. short u as in modem
4. long a as in café
5. Short o as in entrée
6. silent — as in ate

E is usually silent at the end of a word—ate.

Rule Card #14 © academic associates learning centers®

I is a Pentagon

1. short i as in it
2. long i as in hi
3. long e as in Fiji
4. short u as in denim
5. silent — as in sail

I usually copies long E at the end of a word—kiwi.

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O—Another Pentagon

1. short o as in odd
2. long o as in open
3. short u as in wagon
4. long u₂ as in to
5. silent — as in people

O is usually long at the end of a word—go.

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U Makes Five Sounds

1. short u as in up
2. long u(1) as in mute
3. long u(2) as in rule
4. long u(3) as in put
5. silent — as in soul

U usually says long U₂ at the end of a word—Peru.

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Vowels Aren't Always Magic

favorite positive have olive

been captain vaccine active

All Vowels Except W Can Copy

Short U

America poem holiday wagon

up Babylon soda Linda

**A usually copies short U at the end of a word—
tuna.**