

Rule Card #17 © academic associates learning centers®

## 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.

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## The Sound of SH

Sh always makes its own sound as in  
ship shape shop she shin shot shed  
brush crash trash dash cash sherbet

sherbet

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## The TH Sounds

1. Th makes a spoken sound as in:  
this these that those the them thy
2. Th makes a whispered sound as in:  
thin thick Beth Seth thrill theme
3. The h is sometimes silent as in: Thailand  
Thomas Theresa thyme apartheid  
Lufthansa

Rule Card #20

## The CH Sounds

1. Ch usually makes its own sound as in:  
chip chocolate chest child ranch chop
2. Ch sometimes copies k as in: Christmas  
chaos echo chorus Bach  
chrysanthemum
3. Ch sometimes copies sh as in: chef chic  
Chevrolet champagne Chicago  
machine

Rule Card #21

## The WH Rules

1. Wh makes a unique hw sound:  
when why which whine whiz
2. W before h is sometimes silent:  
who whose whom whole
3. Irregular wh words: whoa wharf

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## The Phonetic Symbols

The most common phonetic symbols are shown below.

1. Short vowel: a e i o u
2. Long vowel: a e i o u
3. ah as in father ä (short o sound)
4. Short u or silent (a schwa)
5. E copies long a é café
6. Ac cent mark: (loudest syllable)

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## That Bully R

**R usually mutes the vowels before it.**

| a    | e    | i     | o    | u    |
|------|------|-------|------|------|
| car  | her  | fir   | word | fur  |
| bark | Bert | shirt | work | Burt |
| dart | tern | skirt | born | turn |
| care | here | fire  | wore | fury |

**R usually says its *name*, not its *sound*, after A.**  
**When surrounded by vowels, the vowel before**  
**R will have a sound.**

**O before R is normally long, but sometimes**  
**mute.**

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## AU and AW

Au and aw both say aw as in saw.

|       |      |
|-------|------|
| au    | aw   |
| Paul  | saw  |
| sauce | draw |
| fault | lawn |

In augh words, the g-h is silent, as in:  
caught daughter naughty taught  
A one-of-a-kind irregular word: laugh—laf  
Au can say ow like cow: Maui Audi  
Sometimes a-u copies long o: taupe, au pair

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## **OU and OW**

The main sound of ou and ow is *ow* as in cow.

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| <b>out</b>   | <b>owl</b>    |
| <b>shout</b> | <b>shower</b> |
| <b>flour</b> | <b>flower</b> |

Remember that u and w are sometimes Magic Vowels, and can make an o long, as in: low  
four

Ow makes two sounds: cow low.

Ou makes seven:

out four Houston soup could cousin  
courage

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## **OUS usually says *us***

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>famous</b>     | <b>fabulous</b> |
| <b>tremendous</b> | <b>furious</b>  |
| <b>generous</b>   | <b>enormous</b> |
| <b>serious</b>    | <b>gorgeous</b> |

**OUSE usually rhymes with mouse or house.**

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## **OI and OY**

Oi and oy both say *oy* as in boy.

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| <b>oil</b>   | <b>oyster</b> |
| <b>boil</b>  | <b>loyal</b>  |
| <b>point</b> | <b>toy</b>    |
| <b>moist</b> | <b>enjoy</b>  |
| <b>foil</b>  | <b>cowboy</b> |

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## **OO is a Hexagon**

1. The sound of long u<sub>2</sub>: boot cool kangaroo
2. The sound of long u<sub>3</sub>: book foot good look
3. Short u: blood flood
4. Long o: door floor brooch
5. Two long o's: coordinate microorganism
6. Long and short o: cooperate zoology