

5 SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION PATTERNS

Vowels

Long or short vowels?

There are 5 long (alphabet) vowels

A = /eɪ/ e.g face, pay, straight, eight

E = /i:/ e.g me, see, pea, field

I = /aɪ/ e.g my, high, die

O = /əʊ/ e.g go, phone, road

U = /u:/ e.g too, two, you, Sue

A vowel letter can also have a short sound. (see #1)

#1

One syllable words + consonant at the end = short vowel e.g:

tap /æ/

pet /e/

sit /ɪ/

not /ɒ/

cut /ʌ/

#2

The "magic e" rule. Add "e" to words like the ones in #1 and the short vowel changes to a long vowel e.g:

tap /æ/ - tape /eɪ/

pet /e/ - Pete /i:/

sit /ɪ/ - site /aɪ/

not /ɒ/ - note /əʊ/

cut /ʌ/ - cute /u:/

Exceptions: have, live, come, gone...

#3

Two vowel letters together are often the alphabet pronunciation of the first of the two letters and the second is silent e.g:

pain = /eɪ/

meat = /i:/

pie = /aɪ/

boat = /əʊ/

suit = /u:/

Exceptions: soul, mouse, trouble, coup, cough, fought...

#4

Before a double consonant:

hid (type #1 short)

hide (type #2 long)

hidden (short)

#5

R - vowels: A vowel + r changes the sound of the vowel before it e.g:

pat /æ/ - part /ɑ:/

pea /i:/ - pear /eə/

bee /i:/ - beer /iə/

pot /ɒ/ - port /ɔ:/

hut /ʌ/ - hurt /ɜ:/