

*This list, taken from [Auburn University](#), gives the frequency for each spelling, for example, of long /A/. The most frequent spelling of long a is at the end of open syllables, as in *ba-con*; the second most frequent is *a_e* as in *bake*.*

Phoneme	Principal spellings in order of frequency (Hanna, Fry) and example words
/a/	a (<i>sack</i>), 97%; a_e (<i>have</i>), 3%
/A/	a (<i>bacon</i>), 45%; a_e (<i>bake</i>), 35%; ai (<i>raid</i>), 9%; ay (<i>play</i>), 6%
/Ar/	ar (<i>parable</i>), 29%; are (<i>bare</i>), 23%; air (<i>fair</i>), 21%; ere (<i>there</i>), 15%; ear (<i>bear</i>), 6%
/ar/	ar (<i>bar</i>), 89%; are (<i>are</i>), 5%; ear (<i>heart</i>), 3%
/aw/	o (<i>lost</i>), 41%; a (<i>ball</i>), 22%; au (<i>haul</i>), 19%; aw (<i>saw</i>) 10%
/b/	b (<i>big</i>), 97%
/ch/	ch (<i>chair</i>), 55%, t (<i>feature</i>), 31%; tch (<i>catch</i>), 11%
/d/	d (<i>do</i>), 98%
/u/ (schwa)	o (<i>other</i>), 24%; u (<i>up</i>), 20%; a (<i>alarm</i>), 19%; i (<i>panic</i>), 18%; e (<i>enough</i>), 11%; ou (<i>famous</i>), 5%
/e/	e (<i>bed</i>), 91%; ea (<i>bread</i>) 4%
/E/	y (<i>very</i>), 41%; e (<i>beware</i>), 40%; ee (<i>feet</i>), 6%; ea (<i>seat</i>), 6%
/Er/	er (<i>experience</i>), 32%; ear (<i>fear</i>), 25%; eer (<i>deer</i>), 18%; e_e (<i>here</i>), 14%; ier (<i>tier</i>), 7%
/ul/	le (<i>table</i>), 95%
/er/	er (<i>hammer</i>), 77%; or (<i>odor</i>), 12%; ar (<i>cellar</i>), 8%
/f/	f (<i>fox</i>), 78%; ph (<i>phone</i>), 12%; ff (<i>stuff</i>), 9%
/g/	g (<i>girl</i>), 88%; gg (<i>egg</i>), 5%; x (<i>exit</i>), 3%
/h/	h (<i>hot</i>), 98%
/hw/	wh (<i>white</i>), 100%
/i/	i (<i>hit</i>), 92%; i-e (<i>give</i>), 6% [y (<i>gym</i>), 2%]
/I/	i_e (<i>pipe</i>), 37%; i (<i>Bible</i>), 37%; y (<i>by</i>), 14%; igh (<i>right</i>), 6%
/j/	ge (<i>age</i>), 66%; j (<i>jet</i>), 22%; dge (<i>edge</i>), 5%; d (<i>soldier</i>), 3%
/k/	c (<i>car</i>), 73%; k (<i>kit</i>), 13%; ck (<i>sick</i>), 6%; ch (<i>choir</i>), 3%
/ks/	x (<i>six</i>), 90%; cs (<i>tocsin</i>), 10%
/kw/	qu (<i>quit</i>), 97%
/l/	l (<i>leg</i>), 91%; ll (<i>tell</i>), 9%
/m/	m (<i>mad</i>), 94%; mm (<i>dimmer</i>), 4%
/n/	n (<i>no</i>), 97% [kn (<i>know</i>)<1%]
/ng/	ng (<i>sing</i>), 59%; n (<i>monkey</i>), 41%
/o/	o (<i>hot</i>), 94%; a (<i>want</i>), 5%
/O/	o (<i>focus</i>), 73%; o_e (<i>hope</i>), 14%; oa (<i>boat</i>), 5%; ow (<i>row</i>), 5%

/oi/	oi (<i>oil</i>), 62%; oy (<i>toy</i>), 32%
/oo/	u (<i>bush</i>), 61%; oo (<i>hook</i>), 35%; o (<i>woman</i>), 5%
/Or/	or (<i>for</i>), 97%; ore (<i>core</i>), 3%
/ow/	ou (<i>shout</i>), 56%; ow (<i>howl</i>), 29%; ou_e (<i>house</i>), 13%
/p/	p (<i>pin</i>), 96%, pp (<i>happen</i>), 4%
/r/	r (<i>run</i>), 97%
/s/	s (<i>say</i>), 73%, c (<i>cereal</i>), 17%; ss (<i>toss</i>), 7%
/sh/	ti (<i>action</i>), 53%; sh (<i>shy</i>), 26%; ci (<i>special</i>), 5%; ssi (<i>fission</i>), 3%
/t/	t (<i>top</i>), 97%
/th/	th (<i>bath</i>) 100%
/u/	u (<i>bus</i>) 86%; o (<i>ton</i>), 8%
/U/ or /OO/	u (<i>human</i>), 59%; u_e (<i>use</i>), 19%; oo (<i>moon</i>), 11%; ew (<i>few</i>) 4%
/v/	v (<i>very</i>), 99.5%
/w/	w (<i>way</i>), 92%; u (<i>suede</i>), 7.5%
/y/	i (<i>onion</i>), 55%; y (<i>yes</i>), 44%
/z/	s (<i>was</i>), 64%; z (<i>zero</i>), 23%; es (<i>flies</i>), 4%, x (<i>xylophone</i>), 4%
/zh/	si (<i>incision</i>), 49%; s (<i>pleasure</i>), 33%; g (<i>garage</i>), 15%

This list, taken from [Auburn University](#), shows the probability that when you see a word with, for example, a_e, it says long /A/ 78% of the time. (22% of the time, it says something else, e.g., /a/ in have.)

Correspondence	Phoneme, example word, and percent of reliability in common words
a_e	/A/ (<i>cake</i>) 78%
ai	/A/ (<i>rain</i>) 75%
ay	/A/ (<i>play</i>) 96%
e_e	/E/ (<i>these</i>) 17%
ee	/E/ (<i>feet</i>) 96%
ea	/E/ (<i>seat</i>) 64%; /e/ (<i>head</i>) 17%
ei	/A/ (<i>rein</i>) 50%; /E/ (<i>either</i>) 25%
ey	/E/ (<i>monkey</i>) 77%
ie	/E/ (<i>field</i>) 49%; /I/ (<i>tied</i>) 27%
i_e	/I/ (<i>five</i>) 74%
o_e	/O/ (<i>stove</i>) 58%
oa	/O/ (<i>coat</i>) 95%
ow	/O/ (<i>snow</i>) 68%; /ow/ (<i>how</i>) 32%

oe	/O/ (<i>toe</i>) 44%; /OO/ (<i>shoe</i>) 33%; /u/ (<i>does</i>) 22% [only 9 words in sample]
ou	/ow/ (<i>out</i>) 43%; /u/ (<i>touch</i>) 18%; /U/ (<i>your</i>) 7%
u_e	/OO/ or /U/ (<i>rule, refuse</i>) 77%
oo	/OO/ (<i>boot</i>) 50%; /oo/ (<i>book</i>) 40%
ew	/OO/ (<i>blew</i>) 88%; /U/ (<i>few</i>) 19% [some overlap, e.g., <i>new</i>]
ui	/i/ (<i>build</i>) 53%; /U/ (<i>fruit</i>) 24%
au	/aw/ (<i>cause</i>) 79%
aw	/aw/ (<i>saw</i>) 100%
oi	/oy/ (<i>join</i>) 100%
oy	/oy/ (<i>boy</i>) 100%
ia	/E/a/ (<i>piano</i>) 54%; /u/ (<i>Asia</i>) 46%
y (unaccented syllable)	/E/ (<i>lucky</i>) 100%

[Catalog of the most frequent spellings for each phoneme – Bruce Murray, College of Education \(auburn.edu\)](#)