THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

SUSAN THORPE
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England
thorpeds@hotmail.com

The Long And The Short Of It is devoted to long and short vowel sounds of the same vowel, in various guises. No extraneous vowels are allowed. Long vowel sounds are underlined; short vowel sounds are italicised.

Almost all the words can be found in the Oxford English Dictionary 2nd. Ed. and conform to the phonetics therein.

PHONETIC SYMBOLS USED FOR A, E, I, O AND U

short vowel sounds:
æ (as in CAN, WAAL, YAAS, LAUGH, DRAUGHT)
ï (as in FIG, BISCUIT, WILLIES)
ʌ (as in PLUS, ROUGH, BLOOD)

long vowel sounds:
eɪ (as in BASS, GAIT, VEIN, BRAE, GAOL)
ai (as in FIND, DIE, GNEISS, TAI)
ju: (as in MU, DUE, FEUD, QUEUE, LIEU)

The above words use only vowels to make long and short vowel sounds but long vowel sounds can also be made from adjacent vowel/consonant mixes.
eɪ (as in EH, SLEIGH, DEIGN, WEGHT)
ai (as in HEIGHT, SIGH)

SCEAUX
gu: (as in STEW, VIEW)

SHORT VOWEL SOUNDS

the same single letter represents the same short vowel sound
AFGHAN HANDCLAP ANTHRAX PHALANX JACKASS
EFFECT TENREC—an insectivorous mammal EGGSHELL
IMPRINT FINISH DISTRICT INFILLING VISITING
DIMINISHING MISSISSIPPI SIGILLISTIC—pertaining to seals PRIMITIVISTIC
OBLONG ONCOST ONDOL—Korean form of domestic heating HUBBUB SUNUP DUMPSTRUCK UNSUNG MUCKLUCK NUMSKULL

2 different single letters represent the same short vowel sound
JIFFY SKIMPY SIXTY SILLY PYRRHIC CYRILLIC CYLINDRICAL SICILY MIMICRY
INDIVISIBILITY
MIDGET FIDGET WIDGET
3 different single letters represent the same short vowel sound
FIDGETY  WITCHETTY - name of a grub  CICELY - various umbelliferous plants  CLINKETY  KITCHENY  SYNTHESIS  INDEFINITY  IMBECILITY  INFELICITY  BUSYING  BUSYSH

the same short vowel sound is represented both by a single letter and by a group of 2 vowels
BACK-DRAUGHT  WELL-READ  BEDSPREAD  INBUILT  BISCUIT  WILLIES  INDIE  HOG-TROUGH  COUGHDROP  UNROUGH  BLOOD-SUCK

LONG VOWEL SOUNDS

the same single letter represents the same long vowel sound
MALA  fide  EWE (pronounced AWA) - an African language  MTEPE (pron. MTAPA) - East African sailing craft  MEZE (pron. MAZA) - type of hors-d'oeuvres  REGGE (pron. RAGGA) - an Italian physicist  THEBE (pron. THABA) - a currency unit of Botswana  KERES (pron. KARAS) - a Pueblo Indian people  HEBE  FII  IVI (pron. EVE) - the Tahitian chestnut  ITI - Italian  HIFI  NISI - decree nisi  GLYCYL - univalent radical derived from glycine  POLO  KOMODO  COCOBOLO - a central American tree

2 different single letters represent the same long vowel sound
VADE  VICHY  PEWIT  ELY - Cathedral  IDRYL - a chemical  IDYL - type of short poem  THYMI - pl. thymus  VINYL

the same long vowel sound is represented both by a single letter and by more than one letter
A-TRAIN - satellite constellation  REHEAT  DEBRIEF  SPECIES  MESEMS  TEPEE  HINDSIGHT  SKYLIGHT  QBOE  COCOA  GO-SLOW  JUDEW

the same long vowel sound is represented twice by more than one letter
RAILWAY  HAYWAIN  LAISSEZ  HEYDAY  MAIGRET  STRAIGHTWAY  EASTLEIGH  SEAWEED  EYETIE  EYEBRIGHT  PIE-EYED  ROW-BOAT  GO-SLOW

... and by the same letter group: MAINTAIN  SIEGFRIED  EINSTEIN  OWN-GROWN  JEWMEW

LONG AND SHORT VOWEL SOUNDS

the same single letter represents both long and short vowel sounds
ABAC - an alignment chart  ABRAM  RECESS  DEFFECT  JESSE  SMILING  CRISIS  BJID  VILLI  PHOTON  ROBOT  OSLO  PROLONG  GROTTO  POSTBOX  BRONCO  TUMULT
2 different single letters represent long and short vowel sounds
MATE, SAKÉ, ABBÉ, CAFÉ, JASPE — resembling jasper
PÂTÉ, HALE, ANDRÉ — as in André Ricou
SEAT — car (pron. SÅAT)
DEHÁCHÉ
PENNI (pron. PENNE) — a Finnish monetary unit
IDLY, IVY, IMPLY, TRY/NG, CYCLIC, HYBRID
TIGRESS (pron. TIGR‘S)
...in addition, one of the 2 different letters may also represent both the long and short vowel sounds:
CYST/TIS, TYPFY/N

3 identical letters represent 2 long and 1 short vowel sounds
ENSETE
IRITIS
BONOBQ
USUFRUCT

3 identical letters represent 1 long and 2 short vowel sounds
RE-CEMENT
DIŒN/OC, DIVIDING, MISTIMING, MIDWIFISH
MONOCOT, MONDONGO

a single letter represents the short vowel sound; and more than one letter the long vowel sound
BALLET, TRÄCKWAY, PLANTAIN, CAMPAIGN, CALAIS, ABSEIL
DEBRIS, TÉALESS, GÉNIEEL, THERMÆ (pron. THERME)
TIPPN, EYESTRING, SEISMIC, LEIBNITZ, FEISTY, INSIGN, INDIRECT, INSIGHT, BUYING
HOLLOW, OXBOY, CROSSBOW, BEAU-POT
UNDUE, SUNDEW, NEW-SPRUNG, NEW-CUT, YOU-UNS

a single letter represents the long vowel sound; more than one letter represents the short vowel sound
DEHEAD
PRICEY, CRJKEY

more than one letter represents the short vowel sound; more than one letter the long vowel sound
DRAUGHT-WAY
SWEETBREAD
HEINIE — German soldier
DOUGH-TROUGH
ROUGH-HEWN

REPLACING THE LONG VOWEL SOUND WITH THE SHORT VOWEL SOUND or vv.

In some cases, where a long vowel sound is represented by a group of 2 vowels, one of the 2 vowels can be removed to make a word with the equivalent short vowel sound. Together these two words sometimes make a logical configuration; sometimes different tenses.
Logical Configurations
BAIT BAT CAIN CAN RAIN RAN MAIM MAM
vv...SAL'S SAILS AL'S AILS BRAD'S BRAIDS and LAD LAID MAD MAID!

BEAT BET MEAN MEN LEAN LEN NEAT NET DEAN'S DEN'S
FREED FRED STEEP STEP KEEN KEN CHIEF CHEF
vv...BEN'S BEANS BEST BEAST GREG GRIEG (coined name) SHREK'S SHRIEKS
vv...HIST! HEIST
vv...TOD'S TOADS GOT GOAT

Different Tenses
LEAD...LED BLEED...BLED BRED...BRED FEED...FED MEET...MET

In other cases, where the long vowel sound is represented by a group of one vowel and one or more consonants, the consonants can be removed to make a word with the equivalent short vowel sound. These two words together sometimes make a logical configuration.

Logical Configurations
SLIGHT SLIT
vv...SIS SIGHTS LIT LIGHT

THE PROPER COMMONS

J. JAMES MANCUSO
Niskayuna, New York

The challenge is to create prose using captonyms--words that are both proper and common nouns, and write parallel sentences. You must use them all as proper nouns in one, and then as common nouns, in the same order, in the companion sentence.

Here's an example:

From March to May, Ford, a Polish Catholic from Buffalo, will study Mars as he travels from Turkey with Herb to China to meet up with Nick. Last year during Lent, he studied the Book of Job with another Pole from Nice, France, as they traveled from Reading, PA to Lima, OH in their Fiat. Next August, he and Bill, Tom, Rich, Peter, and Will plan to study Mosaic law.

As he does march there, he may ford many rivers, polish his knowledge of the church catholic, buffalo his companions, and though he mars his cuffs, he will eat turkey seasoned with an herb on fine china that is without a blemish or a nick. Since he lent out his book of jobs available, he decided to pole his way down river having a nice time reading about everything from Lima beans to the Pope's latest Fiat. Such an August topic does far outweigh consideration of his phone bill and tom cats. Though rich with meaning, it will no doubt peter out, and they will then tour the mosaic tile sculptures.