

FECUND PHONETICS

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The same letter, or group of letters, can have different pronunciations and hence be represented by different phonetic symbols. This is demonstrated in *Unusual Words* (2008:145) and *Arbitrary Words*.

Conversely, the same phonetic symbol can represent different letters or group of letters. For example, both the E and I in PHONETIST are pronounced as is the I in PIT. A *phonetist* is a person versed in phonetics.

Each of the words below has more than one identical phonetic symbol represented by a different letter or group of letters. The phonetic symbol is given first, together with the different letters/letter groups it represents in the words listed.

The phonetic symbols are those used in the phonetics list of the Oxford English Dictionary, Second Ed.

TWO IDENTICAL PHONETIC SYMBOLS

LONG VOWELS

i: (as in bean) e ee ie ea æ y i eo ei ey ui œ

defreeze piecemeal fæces completability Timorese repeople

preconceive Ceylonese Guianese synœkete (an insect that lives harmlessly with ants or other

a: (as in barn) ar a ah aa

\ social insects)

armada Bar-Mitzvah aardvark

ɔ: (as in born) aw or au ar o

hawthorn augmentor Warsaw Porlock (a town in Somerset, U.K.)

u: (as in boon) oo oe u

hoopoe (a bird) schussboomer (a fast downhill skier)

ɜ: (as in burn) ir or er ur ear

birthwort (a shrub genus) perturbation earthworm

e: (as in schnee - German) ee e

beerenauslese (a sweet white wine)

a: (as in tag - German) a ah

schlagsahne (whipped cream)

ø: (as in Goethe - German) eö ö

Eötvös (a Hungarian physicist)

The combination of the phonetic symbols **j** (sometimes regarded as a semi-vowel) and **u:** (**ju:**) is pronounced as the letter U in the alphabet, and also as the whole words you and yew:

ju: eu u

euthutropic (describes certain earthquake shocks)

SHORT VOWELS

- I** (as in pit) e i y a u ie ee æ ey œ
bewitch fifty arbitrage busy busied breeches phonæsthetic
finney (local name of finnan haddock) phœnician (a crimson colour) idiocy (nb. first and last letters)
- ɛ** (as in pet) e ea æ a eo o et ue ei
bedspread æsthetic Demerara enfeoff encrimsoned estaminet
pedagogue (a nonce word for a school-mistress) Seignette (a 17th century French chemist)
- ʌ** (as in cull) oo u o a
bloodsucker honeysuckle shaddup (shut up!) ugglesome
- D** (as in pot) o a
codswallop
- ə** (as in another) er ar e a o ou u y
afterwards adversary abdomen arsenous agapanthus bylina (a Russian traditional heroic poem) buffoonery

NASAL VOWELS

- ɛ̃** (as in fīn- French) ai e
maintien (bearing, deportment)
- ɑ̃** (as in franc - French) en ant am an em
penchant campan (a marble) ensemble
- ɔ̃** (as in bon French) om on
compagnon

DIPHTHONGS

- eɪ** (as in ate) e ée ai ay a œ ey er ët
Elysée railway chambermaid ternstroemiaceous hey-day Perrier-Jouët
- aɪ** (as in bite) i y ai ei eye ye ey uy æ
identify cyanide Isaianic microseismic eyesight dye-line
geyerite (arsenide of iron) huysenite (a borate of manganese and iron) pædeia (in ancient Greece, \ society' culture)
- əʊ** (as in so) o oa ow
overcoat lowermost
- aʊ** (as in now) ou ow
outbow countdown
- ɪə** (as in peer) e ia ea ie iu io
arterial funereal experience bacterium exterior
- ɛə** (as in pair) eh er
ehrenbergite (a silicate of alumina, allied to fuller's earth)
- ʊə** (as in tour) oo o
voorloper (a boy who walks with a team of oxen) kokerboom (a large Aloe plant)
- ɔə** (as in boar) or ou o
fore-court fourscore

TRIPHTHONGS

aiə (as in fire) ye io i iro
syenodirite (a type of rock) tiring-irons

TWO ADJACENT IDENTICAL PHONETIC SYMBOLS

These words each have a doubled phonetic symbol.

LONG VOWELS

i: (as in bean) e ae œ
zoe ae (a larval crustacean) pale ae (Botany: inner bracts) pre-œdipal (a term in psychoanalysis)

SHORT VOWELS

I (as in pit) y i e a ey
copy ing thirty ish fifti eth foli age line age Wesley ism fide ism

DIPHTHONGS

ai (as in bite) ie i ay eye
die idism (the condition of having 2 different forms at different stages of life)
mackay ite (a green hydrated tellurite of ferric iron) pie-eyed (drunk)

CONSONANTS

ʃ (as in shoe) s c
cres cendo

THREE IDENTICAL PHONETIC SYMBOLS

LONG VOWELS

i: (as in bean) œ e ie
coenosspecies

SHORT VOWELS

I (as in pit) y e i
synthesis femality phenylic (of, or derived from, phenol) fidgety
ə (as in another) a e ou
aphanipterous (pertaining to the Order Aphaniptera, insects in which the wings are rudimentary scales)

The two words felicity and phillygenin (C₂₁H₂₄O₆) each have four identical phonetic symbols (**I**). However, 2 of these represent the same letter (i) in each case.