

SOUND-SPELLING CORRESPONDENCES

MARK ISAAK
Palo Alto, California

The introduction to the American Heritage Dictionary (Second College edition) contains a list showing the variety of spellings which give particular sounds. Although it gives most of the common spellings, it omits many others. This list is an attempt to fill in the gaps.

I have used exclusively the pronunciations given in Webster's Third New International Dictionary (chutzpah, chiao and ciao are in the Addenda). Words whose pronunciations are labeled as less frequent or not universally accepted are marked by asterisks. It should be noted that many of the other words have more than one pronunciation, too.

The phonetic symbols used to represent the different sounds are those of Webster's Third.

With many words, it is difficult or impossible to say which letters produce which sounds. What letter or letters are responsible for the **w** sound in choir, for example? In resolving such problems, I have tried to err on the side of being too liberal, including some redundant spellings. For example, you will find **talk** in two places - once with the **al** giving the **o** sound, and once with the **lk** giving the **k** sound. In other cases, words appear in more than one place when more than one pronunciation is given for them.

When the spelling produces more than one sound (as with the **x** in **exist** or **luxurious**), the sounds produced are given in square brackets after the word.

I invite readers to add to these lists and to suggest more and better examples. I am particularly curious whether there are any words besides **women** in which an **o** produces the short **i** sound.

ə - rhythm chasm A alone mammal AA Canaan AE aphaeretic
 ə - algaecide AGH curragh shillelagh* AH mynah cheetah AI vil-
 lain wassail ANC blancmange AR bombardier* ATH tuath
 AU aurora epaulet E over sicken EA sergeant vengeance
 EAU bureaucrat EH skirreh mehmandar EI forfeiture hameil
 EO dungeon luncheon EOU courageous ER paraphernalia rin-
 derpest EU pasteurize EY ceylonite Aleyrodes EZ rendezvous
 GH Jedburgh cast HA gingham graham HE shepherd vehement
 HI annihilate exhibition HO silhouette I clarity evil IA onomatopoeia plagiarism
 IE mischief patient IGH Denbighshire
 II anthomyiid IO fashion falchion IOU religious egregious

IU Belgium O atom melon OA cocoanut starboard OAR starboard larboard OE oesophagus OI tortoise connoisseur OO whippoorwill tarabooka OU curious camouflage OUGH Yarborough OUI fenouillet Rambouillet OW uncallow larbowlines U awful focus UA blackguard UE guenon beleaguer UI circuit biscuit UO languor UOU unctuous UR surprise WA gunwale WA1 coxwain Y zephyr labyrinth

- a A ash sat AA baa Waac AE brae aerate AH dahlia yah
 AHA graham Al plaid plait AL calf salve AU laugh flaucht
 AY crayer Ayrshire AYE prayer E Cheyenne cayenne* El weir
 EY eyre I meringue quinte UA garantée UI guimpe
- ā A fable apex AA faags Baal AE maelstrom baeckeol Al maid
 pail ALGH straight ALS beaujolais ALT parfait distrait
 AO gaol aonach AOlGHl Laoighis AU gauge AY say maybe
 AYE aye AYY sayyid AYYl sayyid E re forte EA break steak
 EE toupee entree EH eh mehtar EHE auf Wiedersehen El vein
 lei ElGH neigh eight ER dossier tarsier ES mesdames demense
 ET beret croquet EY they obey EZ oyez rendezvous lE lin-
 gerie O zauberflote höhlflote OE loeweite OI quoit U appli-
 quer UE dengue malaguena UI uintjie uitspan UY schuyt
- ä A star father AA aardvark salaam AE Caen stone Gaelic
 AGH usquebagh Armagh AH blah Shah Al paillette tailleur
 AL calm palm AS bas-relief faux pas AT éclat abat-jour
 AU gaunt haunch AUGH daughter haughty* AW awning lawn
 E ennui encore EA heart hearken EAU bureaucracy HA hauyn-
 ite HO honest l memoir boudoir IA acciaccatura ID sangfroid
 lS bourgeois patois lX abat-voix O hop olive OL solder
 OU cough* Gloucester OW knowledge UA guard
- au AL alpha AO cacao baobab AOU aoudad caoutchouc AOW miaow
 AU tau flautino AUE sauerbraten sauerkraut AW vaward
 HOU hour lAO chiao ciao lAOU giaour lAU chiaus OU couch
 out OUGH bough doughty OUW schouw OW cow town OWE howe
- b B bat tub BB ebb hobby BE barbe tube BH bhang bhat
 BRE macabre P pai-hua PB cupboard raspberry
- ch C cello concerto CC cacciatore boccie CH chat arch
 CHCHH melchchha CHE avalanche CHH chhatri Cl ancient pro-
 vincial CS csardas CZ Czech S censure SCH affenpinscher
 luftmensch SCI conscious conscience SH Menshevik Romansh
 Sl pension mansion T puncture tarantula TCH stitch patch
 TE righteous TH posthumous Tl question bastion TJ naartje
 tjaele TS catsup britska TSCH klatsch tschermigite TY chaitya
 TZSCH Nietzschean X paixtle
- d BD bdelloid bdellium BT subtle debtor CT victual Connecticut
- d· D dab bend DD odd middle DDH buddhi boddhisattva DE horde
 blonde DGH dghaisa DH dhow jodhpur ED skinned feared
 LD solder T garter hospitable TH hathi gray TT bottle gutter
 Z lazzo
- e - ,nth ,mbori A any marshmallow AA Aaronic AE aesthetic aer-
 ial Al again said AY says Ayrshire AYE prayer E bet mend

EA head breakfast EH eh nargileh EI heifer theirs EO jeopardy leopard EY Reynolds eyrie HEI heir IE friend leggiero O löllingite löschia OE loess foetid OEH foehn U bury UE guess baguette

ē A bologna aglaozonia AE algae aegis AGH shillelagh AH shillelah AOIGHI Laoighis AY quay cay E me edict EA eat flea EE feed eel EI deceit receive EIGH Raleigh EO people feoff ES demesne EU grand jeu EY key honey EZ rendezvous HLE assahies HY assahy I ski amino IAE mediaeval IE field lien IER loup-cervier IGH Denbigh IH schih ihleite II schikii wiikite IJ ijolite ILL tortilla papillon ILLE jeune fille IS debris abatis IX Grand Prix IY riyal IZ Agassiz trawl J fjord Ljubljana JE kopje OE phoenix amoeba Ol ainoi chamoix OIS chamois OIX chamoix UE huebnerite UEY plaguey ULLL guillotine lechuguilla UY guyot plaguy Y effigy many YE gramarye

f F fit if FE carafe agrafe FF stiff waffle FFE giraffe gaffe FT often soften GH enough trough H oomph triumph LF half calf PF pfennig pfeffernuss PH phone sphere PHE philosophe bathyscaphe PPH sapphire sapphic V svelte sovkhov W schwegel taw WH whau whekau

g C eczema CKG blackguard G bag go GE renege GG egg dagger GH ghost spaghetti GU fuguist intriguing GUE analogue plague K krex X exist [gz] exert [gz]

h CH chutzpah G Gila monster H hot inhale J junta jojoba WH who whole X xurel Don Quixote

i A shrinkage verbiage AE chimaera quaere AGH shillelagh AH shillelah ARI charivari E college privilege EA shear beard EE been seer EI weird counterfeit EO theorem EY eyrie kerseymere HA cowhage HI exhibit I hit imp IA carriage marriage IE sieve pier IGH Denbigh IGHY Kirkcudbrightshire O women OE asafoetida OIS chamois U busy UI guilt build WI Greenwich Y hymn lynch

ī A naive ouabain AAI lui-haai AE maestro aes grave AI shanghai kaiser ALL paillason paillon ALLE grisaille canaille AIS aisle AU cywyddau AY kayak papaya AYE aye AYY sayyid AYYI sayyid EI eider stein EIGH height sleight EIJ kinderbeweijs EY geyser EYE eye I rabbi item IA diamond liable IE lie pied IGH thigh sigh IJ rijksdaalder rijst-tafel IO violence* IS island viscount OI choir OY coyote UI guile UY guy buy Y by sky YE rye dye YTHE scythe-stone*

j - haemulidae CH chiao Greenwich D educate gradual DE grandeur EG lodging judgment DGE badge edge DI soldier DJ adjective adjust DZ Lodz DZH Adzhar G gin agent GE diverge orange GG exaggerate arpeggio GJ gjetost I maiolica J jet major JH jheel jharal JJ hajj avijja K Kiamusze

- k - length strength C cat icon CC accuse succumb CCH zucchi-
ni saccharin CH school ochre CHE ache CK pack luck
CQU lacquer racquet CQUE sacque CU biscuit circuit G berg-
schrune zugzwang GH yogh lough J bajonado K kin baker
KC Kirkcudbrightshire KE burke peruke KG gingko KH khaki
ankh KJ kjeldahlize KK trekker hokku LK talk balk Q qoph
zindiq QU quiche tequila QUE plaque grotesque X ax [ks]
box [ks] XH Xhosa
- k CH lochan kuchen G laagte airig GH skeigh kiaugh H lehay-
im shehitah J ajonjoli ajimez K halakah hakam KH samekh
lkhwan TH clarseth laith X xat Acaxee
- l AL jai alai ALL empirically basically EL berkelium omelet
GL imbroglio intaglio HL kohlrabi mahlstick IL privilege
L lid fly LD fjeld eldritch LE morale docile LH Lhasa
LL tall ill LLE belle nacelle LN kiln
- m CHM drachm GM phlegm paradigm HM ohm brahma LM calm
salmon M mop ram MB lamb tomb MBE combe buncombe
ME gendarme MH mho mhorr MM dummy hammer MME pro-
gramme MN damn column MP Hampshire N anba anbury
ND grandpa NDM grandma OM sophomore TM tmesis Tmesipteris
- n - Czesłochwa CN cnemis cnidocil DN Dnepropetrovsk
DNE Wednesday EN gardener GN gnat sign GNE cologne
epergne HN john mohnseed IN cabinet ordinant KN knot knife
LN Lincoln MN mnemonic mnioid N now ant ND handsome
candidate NE borne jasmine NG ngaiu quoc-ngu NH ipecacu-
anhic Vietminh NN inn funny NNE comedienne equestrienne
NNES Ardennes Valenciennes ON colonel iron PN pneumonia
pneumatic
- n N mink franc ND handkerchief NG song thing NGG mah-jongg
NGH dinghy sangh NGUE tongue harangue
- o A cupola* AOH Pharaoh AU taupe mauve AUT hautbois
soubresaut AUX fabliaux fauxbourdon EAU bureau eau
EAUX eaux niveaux EO yeoman daguerreotype EOU Seoul
EUX Loucheux EW sew shew HO hoja IO giocoso bocaccio
JO chaparajos aparejo O go over OA oat goal OAT boatswain
OE hoe foe OH oh mohr OL yolk folk OO brooch skaamoog
ORE forecastle OS apropos dos-a-dos OST provost OT depot
tricot OU soul cantaloupe OUGH dough thorough OW snow
meadow OWA toward OWE owe alowe UO fluorine
- o A fall alder AA Aarhus AH hurrah Utah AL talk walk
AO extraordinary AR warm AS Arkansas AU cause dinosaur
AUGH caught daughter AUL caulk AW paw awful AWA with-
drawal AWE awe drawer EO georgic HAL halsen HAU exhaust
HO hors d'oeuvres exhort IO Giottoesque O gone for OA broad
oar OE Floerkea OG horologian Ol moire OL solder OO door
floor OR Yorkshire OU court trough OUGH bought wrought
OWA toward UO fluorine
- öi AU fräulein geländeläufer AWY lawyer sawyer EU deutschmark
Freudian O Dostoevskian OE ieroe Ol oil coin OIS travois

Illinois OJ slojd OY boy toy OYA voyage loyal UOY buoy-
ancy UY schuyt

- p B lebhaft leiblich BP subpoena BT Abt system GH hiccough
P pat spin PE troupe type PH phulkari acenaphthene
PP copper happen PPE grippe steppe PY Pepysian
- r - goethite disease* AR separable boundary AUR restaurant
ER every camera H foehn HR buhr guhr IR aspirin respira-
tory L fauteuil colonel OR laboratory decorative R rat grin
RD canard buirdly RDS canards RE solitaire premiere RG fau-
bourg RH rhino rhyme RPS corps RR cherry burr RRE bi-
zarre parterre RRH diarrhea cirrhosis RS hors d'oeuvres
RT mortgage UR naturalize adventurous WR wring write
- s - jubilatio C cent ocelot CE dance menace CES Gloucester
Worcestershire PS psalm psychotic S sit test SC scene muscle
SCE opalesce luminesce SCH schism SE lapse corpse SH shash-
lick fatshedera SS lass fuss SSE impasse largesse
SSES chausses ST castle thistle STH isthmus SW sword answer
SZ szmikite Lisztian T genizot mitnagged TH beth hakafoth
TS tsunami tsumebite TZ zortzico X ittle xeric XE deluxe [ks]
axe [ks] Z matzo hertz ZS britzska ZZ pizza [ts] mezzo [ts]
- sh C appreciate fiduciary CE licorice* ocean CH chic machine
CHE cache moustache CHS fuchsia CI efficient glacier HS hsin
Wanhsien PSH pshaw S sugar sure SC scirocco scena
SCHE schottische SCHSCH eschschoitzia SCI omniscient luscious
SE nauseous gaseous SH shoe wish SHCH borshch SI torsion
compulsion SJ sjambok sjogrenite SK skilling ski* SS assure
issue SSI omission passion SZ grosz T initiate negotiate
TI ambitious ration X maxixe nixtamal XI anxious noxious
[ksh] ZH Voronezh
- t - since rinse BT doubt subtle CHT yacht CT indict Connecti-
cut D gesundheit veld DT veldt Rembrandt ED bushed stopped
GHT caught ought PHTH phthisic PT ptarmigan receipt
RT sherbert T top stir TE caste carte TES sirventes Des-
cartes TH thyme lathi TS tsetse TT butt attract TTE cigar-
ette gavotte TW two Z scherzo [ts] sforzando [ts]
ZZ pizza [ts]
- th CHTH chthonic PHTH phthalein phthisis TH three truth
THE jacinthe absinthe Z ajimez arroz
- th D fado DD eisteddfod cynganedd DH edh TH then other
THE bathe loathe Y ye
- 'ə A what sattva AU because EU causeuse O ton money OE does
roentgen OO blood flood OU couple touch U but undo
UE Muenster WO twopence Y cywydd
- 'ər A adh^urma E her person EA earn dearth EU saboteur hauteur
EUL fauteuil HE herb I fir stirrup O work worse OE oersted
OEI oeil-de-boeuf OEU oeuvre coeur d'alene OU adjourn scourge
U fur burn UE guernsey guerdon UEU longueur Y myrrh
syrup

- ü EEW leeward EU sleuth leukemia EUF Neufchâtel EW dew
 lewd EWE jewel* HU exhume IEU lieu lieutenant IOU Siouan
 IOUX Sioux IU jiu-jitsu O do move OE shoe canoe OEU man-
 oeuvre OO food moon OOH pooh OU soup routine OUE moue
 OUGH through OUI bouillabaisse mouillé OUP coup loup-garou
 OUS rendezvous Lissajous figure OUT ragout marabout OUX roux
 OW enow cowthwort U super haiku UD Kirkcudbrightshire
 UE sue due UH bruh UI suit fruit UO buoy UU muumuu
 W cwm crwth WO two
- û EU neural EW Jewry EWE brewery O woman wolf OE roer
 OO look foot OR Worcestershire OU bourbon tourmaline
 OUL could should U push pull UE Muenster buetschliite
 UO fluorine buoy
- v B habdalah kethib F of lief FV arfvedsonite LVE salve halve
 U quass V vat even VE sieve nerve VV divvy flivver
 W wagnerite wiesenboden
- w - virtuoso herqine GU guarache HU Chihuahua huapango
 HW hwan Sekhwan JO joaquinite JU marijuāna juamave L Lodz
 O coiffeur one OU bivouac ouabaio QU quit [kw] equal [kw]
 U guano ennui V vas quinze voces W win twice WH narwhal
 why XU Latinxua
- y - figure lasagna AE bougainvillaea E azalea G pfennige
 GJ gjetost H senhor farinha l onion petunia J halleluja fjord
 LL tortilla bouillon LLI villianumite R February* U valuable
 Y yet yod YY lyyar lehayyim
- yü EAU beautiful EO feodary EU feud eugenic EUE queue EW few
 pewter EWE ewe IEU adieu milieu IEW view IOU Liouville's
 theorem IU piu iulidae JU juger jubilatio OU coupon U menu
 union UE hue cue UT debut UU vacuum YAU yaupon
 YEU yeuk YEW yew YOO yoo-hoo YOU youth you YU yule anyu
- z CZ czar DZ dzo dzeren S as lens SC discern* SE cleanse
 drowse SS dessert scissors STH asthma X xenon flambeaux
 Z zoo crazy ZE bronze adze ZZ buzz sizzle
- zh CI coercion G genre negligee GE beige rouge J bijou ajari
 S measure pleasure SH cashmere Sl abrasion hosier SSl re-
 scission fission* TI equation X luxurious [gzh] Z azure
 seizure ZH muzhik zho Zl glazier brazier ZJ muzjik
 ZS vizsla