

THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

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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)

ɪ (as in FIG, BISCUIT, WILLIES)

ʌ (as in PLUS, ROUGH, BLOOD)

ɛ (as in BET, GUESS, FAIT {pron. FET} accompli, HEAD, RAIE)

ɒ (as in DOLL, TROUGH)

long vowel sounds:

eɪ (as in BASS, GAIT, VEIN, BRAE, GAOL) **i:** (as in BE, FLEA, BEEN, BRIEF, CEIL, BLAE, DIX)

aɪ (as in FIND, DIE, GNEISS, TAI)

əʊ (as in GO, FOE, BEAU, COAT, SOUL, BAUD)

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)

i: (as in LEIGH – surname, LEGH)

aɪ (as in HEIGHT, SIGH)

əʊ (as in SEW, BOWL, OH, DOUGH,

SCEAUX)

ju: (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 EGG SHELL

IMPRINT FINISH DISTRICT

INFILLING VISITING

DMINISHING MISSISSIPPI SIGILLISTIC – pertaining to seals

PRIMITIVISTIC

OBLONG ONCOST ONDOL – Korean form of domestic heating

HUBBUB SUNUP DUMBSTRUCK UNSUNG MUCKLUCK NUMSKULL

2 different single letters represent the same *short* vowel sound

IFFY SKIMPY SIXTY SILLY PYRRHIC CYRLLIC CYLINDRIC 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 BUSYISH

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'œuvres REGGE (pron. RAGGA) – an Italian physicist
THEBE (pron. THABA) - a currency unit of Botswana KERES (pron. KARAS) - a Pueblo Indian people
HEBE FIJI 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 MESEEMS TEPEE
HINDSIGHT SKYLIGHT
OBOE 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 DEFECT JESSE
SMILING CRISIS BIFID VILLI
PHOTON ROBOT OSLO PROLONG GROTTO POSTBOX BRONCO
TUMULT

2 different single letters represent long and *short* vowel sounds

MATE SAKE ABBE CAFE JASPE – resembling jasper PATE HALLE ANDRE – as in André Rieu
SEAT – car (pron. SAAT) DEHACHE

PENNI (pron. PENNE) – a Finnish monetary unit

IDLY IVY IMPLY TRYING CYCLIC HYBRID

TIGRESS (pron. TIGRIS)

...in addition, one of the 2 different letters may also represent both the long and *short* vowel sounds:

CYSTITIS TYPIFYING

3 identical letters represent 2 long and 1 *short* vowel sounds

ENSETE

IRITIS

BONOBO

USUFRUCT

3 identical letters represent 1 long and 2 *short* vowel sounds

RE-CEMENT

DICLINIC DIVIDING MISTIMING MIDWIFISH

MONOCOT MONDONGO

a single letter represents the *short* vowel sound; and more than one letter the long vowel sound

BALLET TRACKWAY PLANTAIN CAMPAIGN CALAIS ABSEIL

DEBRIS TEALESS GENTEEL THERMÆ (pron. THERME)

TIEPIN EYESTRING SEISMIC LEIBNITZ FEISTY INSIGN INDICT INSIGHT BUYING

HOLLOW OXBOW 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 CRIKEY

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 DENS

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 BREED...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...S/S SIGHS LIT LIGHT