Most tautonymic words, as well as consisting of a repeated letter/group of letters, are also phonetically tautonymic, the 2 identical letter groups having identical pronunciations. eg pawpaw (pɔː pɔː). On the other hand, there exist tautonymic words with a difference in pronunciation between the 2 identical letter groups. The degree of audible difference varies. It may be obvious as in ISIS, a river in Oxford, and in the TSETSE fly; or the difference may be more subtle.

The phonetic symbols are taken from the phonetics list in the Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd. Ed.

**Phonetic symbols:**

- ɔ (as in born)
- ø (as in pat)
- æ (as in pat)
- ɑ (as in barn)
- i (as in pit)
- e (as in pet)
- eI (as in ate)
- ɔ (as in pgt)
- ɑ (as in pit)
- ɔ (as in gte)
- ɔ (as in burn)
- ɑ (as in sing)
- au (as in now)

**4-LETTER TAUTONYMS**

- adad (æd æd) and its reversal dada (dæ ðæ 0 dæ ðæ 0)
- anan (æn æn) and its reversal nana (næ ne)
- eyey (æi æi) and its reversal gaga (gæ gæ)
- mama (me maː) and its reversal papà (pæ pæ:...father) (pæː pæ...Pope)
- tata (tæ taː:) and its reversal tete (tɛ t or te t) wawa (weɪ wə)

(a woman’s head of hair)

**6-LETTER TAUTONYMS**

- berber (bɔː bɛr) furfur (fɔː fɛr...scurf) murmur (mɔː me{r})
- gangan (ɡæn ɡæn) an Australian cockatoo palpal (pæl pæl)
- tartar (tɔː tɛ{r}) testes (tɛs tiːz) tsetse (tɛs tsi)

**8-LETTER TAUTONYMS**

- colocolo (kaːləʊ keʊləʊ) wild cat of South America
- caracara (kərə kaːra) vulture-like birds
- hotshots (haːt j aːts) here, sh (ʃ) straddles the 2 tautonymic halves of the word.

So far, we have looked at words which are tautonyms but not phonetic tautonyms. By way of contrast, there exist a few words which are not tautonyms but which are phonetic tautonyms. The pick of the bunch is probably the word COCOA.

**co coa (kəʊkəʊ)**

In these seven words, the letters I and Y are, in each case, both represented by the phonetic symbol ɪ. In six of the seven, the first letter and its doubled letter both equate to the same phonetic symbol.

- di ddy (di di)
- li ly (lɪ lɪ)
- ni nny (nɪ nɪ)
- pi ppy (pi pi)
- si ssy (sɪ sɪ)
- ti tty (tɪ tɪ)

In ki cky (kɪ kɪ), the second k is not duplicated. Rather, it is preceded by a different letter, ɔ.