

Basic English Pronunciation Guide

English contains more words than any language in the world: approximately one million words! This results in more sounds and syllables than in any language, including Chinese. Added to this, many of these syllables (and sounds) are multi-functional. Although Chinese has tones which influence sounds and multi-dimensional words, such as “mǎi” meaning “buy” and “mài” meaning “sell;” still, English oftentimes has different pronunciations for not only the same syllables, but even the same letter! “Tomato” “tomato” (pronounced toe-**may**-toe; toe-**mah**-toe). “She **reads** the book,” “She **read** the book.” English is often inconsistent with spellings and sounds. A word on its own can sound one way, such as “**own**,” but add a particular letter to it, and it may take on an entirely different sound, such as “**down**.” “**L-o-v-e**” is pronounced “**love**,” but “**m-o-v-e**” is pronounced “**move**.” “**A-i-d**” is “**aid**,” but with an “s” in front of it, “**s-a-i-d**” becomes “**said**.” Homophones (words pronounced exactly alike with a few other words but different in meaning and spelling) . . . i.e. *to*, *too*, and *two*, are confusing, but there are probably only a couple hundred of them. Similar sounds that are not words but sounds that sound alike, such as, “grease,” “piece,” “geese,” “Greece,” “police” number in the thousands however. These factors and others make English pronunciation and word recognition as difficult as any language in the world.

As in most English books, we have not included English pronunciation and stress marks over words. Our primary function is to teach Mandarin Chinese to English speakers, with the teaching of English to Chinese speakers as secondary. We concluded that the marking of English words would have distracted too much from our Chinese-teaching objective. Therefore we chose to stay with Pinyin tone marks only.

Also note that as Chinese speakers show many dialects of Mandarin, depending on whether one comes from ChongQing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing, Taiwan, etc., so Britains, Australians, Canadians, Americans, and other native English speakers sometimes pronounce the same words in different ways. These are called “accents.” And if different countries aren’t enough to confuse one about accents, America, for example, has a “Southern accent,” a “Boston accent,” a “Jersey accent,” as well as a host of other “accents” . . .

Therefore a vocalized pronunciation guide such as this is bound to have an “accent.” Since we couldn’t please everyone with either the Chinese or the American speaker, we chose speakers (with accents) considered common, more pure. The Chinese speaker has a Beijing accent while the American speaker has a Western United States accent. Also, each sound is represented by common words for different spellings of that sound. You, a Chinese speaker, can hereby start recognizing the “look” of certain words and their sounds. Which is important to your progress since all English dialects depend on “sight” words (words that must be memorized by sight and sound if you are to read, write, and pronounce them correctly). A primary example, again, of a “sight” word is “**said**.” You will sound very foreign and ignorant if you simply add an “s” to the banal “**a-i-d**” sound! So one of the main things this Pronunciation Guide does for you is to get you started recognizing the spelling / sound relationships for many of the most common English sounds.

The English language uses 26 letters. 21 of these are consonants, and 5 are vowels (although the letter “y” can function as either).

The English consonants are: b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z.

The Approximate Pronunciations of the Consonants are:

- b** “big” “better” “best”
(In some words, however, especially when the “b” comes at the end of the word, the “b” is silent --- “dumb” “comb”).
- c** “can” “call” “cat”
(However, in some words, such as “city” “ceiling” “cycle”, the “c” hisses more like the “s” sound in the Pinyin word “sān”).
- c-h** “chess” “chicken” “chair”
- c-h** “cheese”
- c-k** “back”
- d** “desk” “dog” “doctor”
- d-g-e** “bridge” “dodge” “smudge”
- f** “fast” “fax” “female”
- g** “give” “game” “girl”
- g-h** “laugh”
- h** “have” “hand” “head”
(In a few words, however, such as “hour,” the “h” is silent).
- j** “Japan” “June” “joke”
- k** “kitchen” “Kung Fu” “kiss”
- k-n** “knife”
(The “k” is silent.)
- l** “lamb” “last” “late”
- m** “major” “many” “March”
- n** “new” “name” “now”
- n-g** “song” “young” “thing”
- p** “paper” “pretty” “punctuation”
- p-h** “phone” “photograph” “Phillipines”
- q-u** “quilt” “quickly” “quiet”
(**American Usage Note:** Although there are a few exceptions, the consonant “q” and the vowel “u” go together 99% of the time. Therefore think of “q” not as “q,” but as “qu”).

r	“rain” “read” “really”
s	“Sunday” “summer” “sugar” (In some words, however, “nose” “those” “toes”, the “s” sound is more like a “z” sound.)
s-h	“shirt” “shop” “shoe”
s-i-o-n	“television”
t	“talk” “take” “tea”
t-c-h	“kitchen”
t-h	“them” “think” “thought” (English Spelling Anomaly: “th” occurs both at the beginning of words and at the end of words . . . “with,” “myth,” “Smith.”)
t-i-o-n	“action” “condition” “application”
v	“very” “vocabulary” “television” (is pronounced with the lower lip touching the top front teeth)
w	“wait” “want” “water”
w-h	“what” “when” “why”
w-r	“write” “written” “wrong”
x	“box” “fox” “toxic”
y	“yellow” “year” “yes”
z	“zero” “zipcode” “zoo”

The English vowels are: a, e, i, o, u, (and sometimes) y

Vowels have the most dramatic effect on the pronunciation of words. Changes in vowel sounds are the hardest sounds also to learn. Usually vowel sounds change according to letters around them: whether the vowel is a syllable by itself, part of a two letter syllable combination, a three letter syllable combination, or more, and whether the vowel is the first letter in the syllable combination or the second letter placed after a consonant or the third letter after a two consonant combination. And that’s simply referring to what’s in front of the vowel. Although the majority of vowels stand alone in the middle of most syllables, followed by one or more consonants; still, some words contain multi-voweled syllables! The last syllable of “**rebellious**,” for instance, has three vowels in succession – “l - **i** - **o** - **u** - s.” While the vowel word, “**a-u-d-i-o**” - “**audio**” has four vowels and only one consonant, with the final vowel a one-letter vowel syllable by itself. These are just two of hundreds of anomalies in English.

The Approximate Pronunciations of Some of the More Common Vowel Sounds are:

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a	“hay” “day” “May”
e-y	“hey” “obey” “whey”
e-i-g-h	“neigh” “sleigh” “weigh”
é	“soufflé” “Santa Fé” “resumé”
u-e-t	“bouquet”
e-t	“Chevrolet” “gourmet” “ricochet”
e-e	“negligee”

(The “a” sound, like many of the sounds that follow, does not have to be spelled like the original sound in order to sound like it. There are several dozen “e”-spelled words which take on “a” sounds. One of these, the “e-i” combination in “**weigh**,” leads to an interesting sound anomaly. Since the “e-i” in “**weigh**” is pronounced “a”, we logically assume that adding a “t” to the end of the word should not change the sound. True enough: “**weigh**” converts into “**weight**.” But if we change the first letter of “**weight**,” the “w” to an “h,” which now spells, “**height**,” the “**8**” sound from the “**eight**” in “**weight**,” changes its pronunciation! The “**eight**” sound in “**weight**” now becomes the “**ite**” sound in “**height!**”).

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

a	“algebra” “camera” “mama”
a-b	“grab” “lab” “taxicab”
a-c-h-e	“back ache ” “brake” “break” (Although the “ ache ” sound can be spelled three ways, body aches are always “ a-c-h-e ”).
a-c-k	“black” “pack” “thumbtack”
a-c-t	“attract” “react” “matter-of-fact”

。 。 。 NEXT 3 。 。 。

a-d-e	“made” “shade” “lemonade”
a-i-d	“maid” “raid” “bandaid.” (Remember: “s-a-i-d” - said - is not part of this sound!)
a-y-e-d	“prayed” “rayed” “overstayed”

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

a-d “dad” “sad” “graduate”
 (Note however that if the vowel “e” follows the “d,” the “**ad**” spelling and sound changes then to an “**ade**” sound and becomes “**grade**” instead of “**grad.**” The vowel “e” is probably the most common way of changing one sound to another . . .).

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a-f-f “staff”

a-f-f-e “giraffe”

a-l-f “half” “calf”

a-u-g-h “laugh”

a-p-h “photograph” “autograph”

。 。 。 END OF 5 。 。 。

a-g “flag” “rag” “wag”
 (Again, when the vowel “e” is appended to the word, a different sound results. Instead of “rag” you have “rage,” instead of “wag” you have “wage.”)

a-g-e “page” “rage” “wage”

a-l “animal” “professional” “exceptional”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

a-l-e “sale” “tale” “male”

a-i-l “sail” “tail” “mail”
 (Many “ale” sounds are homonyms – different in meaning and spelling but sound the same).

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

a-l-l “all” “fall” “football”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

a-l-t “salt” “halt” “chocolate malt”

a-u-l-t “fault” “vault” “assault”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

a-m-e “name” “game” “came”

a-i-m “aim” “claim” “exclaim”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 4 。 。 。

a-n-e “cane” “plane” “Jane”

a-i-n “rain” “plain” “train”

e-i-n “rein” “vein” “chow mein”

e-i-g-n “reign” “feign”
 (“ane” sounds also contain many homonyms).

。 。 。 END OF 4 。 。 。

a-n “sandwich” “Santa Claus” “man”
 (Note that the “**an**” sound stays consistent. There are no anomalies to this sound.
 So whenever you see “a-n” it is pronounced like “a-n” in the Pinyin word “san”).

a-n-c-e “dance” “France” “romance”
 (Again, the “**an**” sound is clearly heard. Do not confuse the spelling with “e-n-c-e” . . .)

a-n-d “and” “hand” “command”

a-n-t “ant” “grant” “plant”
 (Although the “**an**” sound is very distinct here, this is a sound that people with English accents like to slaughter! In America, most words using “**a-n-t**” use the “**an**” sound as in “can’t”. In Britain, however, they say “can’t” with an “**on**” sound - “con’t”, yet spell it the same – “c-a-n-t”).

Nonetheless, there are words in America which also change the “**a-n-t**” sound. Undoubtedly it is one of the most confusing sounds. Americans change the “a-n-t” sound in “elephant,” for example. It takes on a “**u-n**” sound – “unt”).

Another “**unt**” word, “occupant”, leads to an interesting spelling-sound anomaly. The same “**p-a-n-t**” spelling in “occupant,” pronounced with the “**unt**” sound, reverts back to the “**ant**” sound when used alone: “pants”).

a-p “gap” “tap” “trap”
 (is how “**a-p**” sounds without an “e” on the end).

a-p-e “gape” “tape” “trape”
 (is how “**a-p**” sounds *with* an “e” on the end).

a-r “far” “car” “guitar”

。 。 。 NEXT 5 。 。 。

a-r-e “fare” “hare” “scare”
(This is another confusing spelling-sound because it is pronounced simply “r” in the verb word “are”).

a-i-r “fair” “hair” “chair”

e-i-r “their”
(This spelling’s most common use is with the pronoun, “their”. Another word is “heir”).

e-r-e “there” “where”
(Again, these are probably the only two words that utilize this sound-spelling).

a-i-r-e “solitaire” “millionaire” “billionaire”

(English confusion surfaces a lot with this sound group. The “pare” sound for example contains three homonyms: “p-a-r-e,” “p-e-a-r,” “p-a-i-r”. Yet the same “air” sound in “pear,” and also in “wear,” becomes the “ear” sound in “fear!” And if this isn’t enough to confuse a foreign student, “t-e-a-r” pronounced “tare” in “to tear a piece of paper,” is pronounced “dear” when referring to one’s sweetheart, “My Dear Husband,” but changes its sound to “tear” or “tears” when crying!)

。 。 。 END OF 5 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

a-s-e “base” “chase” “erase”

a-c-e “face” “race” “place”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

a-s-h “splash” “trash” “cash”
(Most words with the “ash” sound are spelled “a-s-h”. However, “moustache,” - hair under a man’s nose - converts the “a-c-h-e” sound and spelling in “belly ache” and “tummy ache” to the “ash” sound in “moustache” . . . “Moustache” of course is a “sight word.”)

a-t “mat” “hat” “that”
(is usually the pronunciation of “a-t” when it does not have an “e” on the end of it. But as usual, there is an exception to every rule. What about “what?”).

a-t-c-h “catch” “match” “unlatch”

a-t-e

“date” “mate” “crate”

(Note that these words end with the vowel “e”. Words that end with “e” and are preceded by a single vowel “a” usually take on an “ay” sound. Examples: “**face**” “**grape**” “**gave**”. An exception to this rule is “**a-r-e**” as in “**fare**” “**hare**” “**scare**”. And almost always if the ending “e” is preceded by a double vowel, then another sound results, as in “**a-i-r-e**” - “**millionaire**”).

a-v-e

“brave” “save” “gave”

. . . NEXT 2 . . .

a-w

“draw” “saw” “sister-in-law”

a-w-e

“awe”

. . . END OF 2 . . .

. . . NEXT 4 . . .

a-z-e

“maze” “gaze” “ablaze”

a-s-e

“phase” “phrase”

a-i-s-e

“praise” “raise,” “mayonnaise”

a-y-s

“rays” “days” “Willie Mays”

. . . END OF 4 . . .

. . . NEXT 9 . . .

e

“he” “she” “we”

e-e

“tee” “see” “tree”

e-a

“tea” “sea” “plea”

and

all

words

that

end

in

y

“**c-y**” “**democracy**” **l-y**” “**brotherly**” “**n-y**” “**harmony**” “**p-h-y**” photography“
 “**r-y**” “**forestry**” “**t-y**” “**quality**” etc.

(Note: When a word ends with “y” the final syllable inevitably is an “ee” sound).

. . . END OF 9 . . .

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

e-a-c-h “each” “reach” “teach”

e-e-c-h “speech” “screech”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 3 。 。 。

e-e-d “feed” “need” “speed”

e-d-e “precede” “impede” “milipede”

e-a-d “bead” “plead” “read”

(“**Read**”, if you recall, is a tricky word according to its tense. In the present tense and similar tenses you pronounce it, “She is **reading** the book.” But in the past tense, etc. the sound changes to “**red**”, “She has **read** the book.”)

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 4 。 。 。

e-d “red” “bed” “wed”

e-a-d “spread” “bread” “head”

(And “**read**” in the past tense, etc., as explained above!)

a-i-d “said”

(As said before, “**said**” is a word you must memorize. Since other “**a-i-d**” words are pronounced with an “**ade**” sound, “**paid**” “**maid**” “**laid**”, you’ll look like a fool if you say, “He said he will come.” “He **said** he will come” is how it is correctly said).

e-d “corrected” “inhabited” “talented”

(“**ed**” is the most common suffix in English. It is used on the end of thousands of words to show a word’s past tense).

。 。 。 END OF 4 。 。 。

e-c-t “correct” “infect” “self-respect”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

e-e-l “feel” “wheel” “steel”

e-a-l “deal” “meal” “steal”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

e-l-l “sell” “smell” “spell”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

e-a-m “dream” “team” “ice cream”

e-m-e “theme” “scheme” “extreme”

e-e-m “esteem” “redeem” “reem”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 4 。 。 。

e-e-n “green” “seen” “fifteen”

e-a-n “lean” “mean” “dean”

i-n-e “marine” “nicotine” “gasoline”

e-n-e “serene” “convene” “obscene”

。 。 。 END OF 4 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

e-n “hen,” “then,” “when”

a-i-n “again”

(“Again” is a sight-word (a word you should memorize by sight) because other “a-i-n” words are pronounced with the “ane” sound: “main” “pain” “gain”).

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

e-n-c-h “bench” “French” “wrench”

e-n-d “end” “spend” “comprehend”

e-n-c-e “reference” “excellence” “intelligence”

e-n-t “competent” “excellent” “intelligent”

e-p-t “accept” “except” “overslept”

。 。 。 NEXT 4 。 。 。

e-r-e “here” “sincere” “severe”

e-e-r “career” “engineer” “deer”

e-a-r “year” “clear” “dear”

i-e-r “cashier” “financier” “tier”

。 。 。 END OF 4 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 5 。 。 。

e-a-s-e “grease” “crease” “release”

i-e-c-e “piece” “niece”

e-e-s-e “geese”

e-e-c-e “Greece” “fleece”

i-c-e “police”

(“Police” is another “sight word,” since other “i-c-e” words are pronounced with an “ice” sound: “nice” “price” and even “lice” without the “po” in front of it).

(**Also Note** that “ease” is a word in itself that is pronounced nothing like what we’re doing here! Words using the “ease” sound include “please” “tease” “appease”).

。 。 。 END OF 5 。 。 。

e-s-s “success” “dress” “righteousness”

(includes hundreds of words that use this sound and spelling).

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

e-s-s-e-d “possessed” “dressed” “obsessed”

e-s-t “chest” “test” “suggest”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 3 。 。 。

e-a-t “eat” “treat” “meat”

e-t-e “delete” “compete” “complete”

e-e-t “sweet” “feet” “parakeet”

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

e-r “her” “refer” “passenger”

u-r “occur”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

e-t “get” “let” “alphabet”

e-t-t-e “brunette” “Jeanette” “Corvette”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 6 。 。 。

e-a-s-e “ease” “please” “disease”

e-e-z-e “wheeze” “freeze” “breeze”

e-s-e “these” “Japanese” “Chinese”

i-e-s “rabies” “babies”

e-e-s “knees”

e-e-s-e “cheese”

。 。 。 END OF 6 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 6 。 。 。

(**Note:** The following are all “eye” sounds. “I” sounds have the most diverse spellings in all English. You’ll need to memorize them. Strangely enough the letter “i” with the original “eye” sound is found in very few words. The letter “y” at the end of words is the most common “I” sound):

I “I” “alkali” “pi”
(Not the “pie” you eat, but the mathematical equation “pi.”)

i-e “pie” “die” “tie”

i-g-h “high” “sigh” “thigh”

y “beautify” “my” “by”

y-e “eye” “dye” “bye” has the same “y” with an “i” sound as above, but with a silent “e.”

u-y “guy” “buy”

。 。 。 END OF 6 。 。 。

i-c-e “ice” “nice” “advice”

i-d-e “bride” “ride” “justified”

i-f “if” “sniff” “stiff”

i-f-e “life” “wife” “knife”

i-g “big” “fig” “pig”

i-k-e “bike” “hike” “like”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

i-c-k “sick” “thick” “candlestick”

i-c “rhetoric” “Catholic” “arithmetic”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

i-c-t “strict” “conflict” “contradict”

i-l-e “file” “smile” “infantile”

i-l-l “will” “thrill” “untill”

i-l-d “mild” “wild” “child”

i-l-t “built” “spilt” “tilt”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

i-m-e “lime” “dime” “overtime”

i-m-b “climb”

(“Climb” is another sight word because “**l-i-m-b**” without the “c” is pronounced “**limb**”).

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 4 。 。 。

i-m-b “limb”

i-m “him” “swim” “whim”

y-m-n “hymn”

y-m “gym” “synonym” “antonym”

。 。 。 END OF 4 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

i-n-e “fine” “line” “sunshine”

i-g-n “sign” “resign”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

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i-n “in” “Mandarin” “Pinyin”

i-n-e “masculine” “feminine” “discipline”

e-e-n “been”

(Also a sight word. Other “e-e-n” words are pronounced with the “e” sound: “seen,” “teen”).

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

i-n-d “find” “behind” “unwind”

i-n-g “promising” “flourishing” “distinguishing”

i-n-t “hint” “print” “spearmint”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

i-p-e “stripe” “wipe” “unripe”

y-p-e “type”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

i-p “lip” “trip” “penmanship”

。 。 。 NEXT 4 。 。 。

i-r-d “bird” “gird” “third”

e-r-d “herd”

e-a-r-d “heard”

o-r-d “word”

。 。 。 END OF 4 。 。 。

i-r-e “fire” “desire” “require”

。 。 。 NEXT 3 。 。 。

i-r-m “firm” “affirm” “squirm”

e-r-m “germ” “term” “pachyderm”

o-r-m “worm”

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

(NOTE: Be careful with the next two. Although spelled the same, the sounds have a subtle difference).

i-s “is” “his”

i-s “emphasis” “kiss” “this”

i-s-h “dish” “fish” “yellowish”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

i-s-k “disk” “frisk” “brisk”

i-s-c “disc”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

i-s-m “Americanism” “altruism” “Mormonism”

。 。 。 NEXT 4 。 。 。

i-s-t “wrist” “insist” “geologist”

i-s-s-e-d “kissed” “missed” “hissed”

y-s-t “analyst”

i-c-e-d “prejudiced”

(Another sight word. Other “**i-c-e-d**” words are pronounced “**iced**”).

。 。 。 END OF 4 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

i-t-e “white” “excite” “write”

i-g-h-t “sight” “bright” “copyright”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

i-t “it” “sit” “commit”

(NOTE: Be careful with the next two. Although spelled the same, the sounds are quite different!):

i-v-e “forgive” “live” “preservative”

i-v-e “I’ve” “five” “alive”

(Note the vast sound difference between “live” and “alive”!)

。 。 。 NEXT 4 。 。 。

i-z-e “capitalize” “minimize” “personalize”

i-s-e “advertise” “exercise” “surprise”

y-z-e “paralyze”

u-i-s-e “disguise”

。 。 。 END OF 4 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 6 。 。 。

o “no” “go” “hello”

o-e “toe” “Joe” “Edgar Allen Poe”

o-w “know” “show” “below”

o-u-g-h “dough” “though.”

e-a-u “plateau” “chateau”

e-w “sew”

(Another sound anomaly, “s-e-w” is a “sight word” because other “e-w” words are pronounced with an “oo” sound, “new” “few” “brew”).

。 。 。 END OF 6 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

o-a-d “load” “toad” “road”

o-d-e “corrode” “episode” “explode”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

o-d “odd” “prod” “God”

o-g “dog” “frog” “log”

o-y “joy” “boy” “toy”

o-i-l “oil” “spoil” “turmoil”

o-i-n “coin” “join” “sirloin”

o-i-n-t “joint” “anoint” “disappoint”

o-k-e “choke” “broke” “coke”

o-c-k “rock” “sock” “clock”

。 。 。 NEXT 6 。 。 。

o-l-e “whole” “hole” “casserole”

o-l “control”

o-l-l “roll” “scroll” “toll”

o-a-l “goal” “coal” “foal”

o-u-l “soul”

o-w-l “bowl”

(Another “sight word” because other “**o-w-l**” words are pronounced “**owl**” - “**fowl**” “**howl**”).

。 。 。 END OF 6 。 。 。

o-l-d “old” “cold” “untold”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

o-m-e “home” “Rome” “chromosome”

o-m-b “comb”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 4 。 。 。

(**Note:** The spelling “o-n-e” is the spelling for the number 1, but here another sound is involved):

o-n-e “bone” “stone” “telephone”

o-w-n “own” “unknown” “full-blown”

o-a-n “loan” “moan” “Joan”

o-g-n-e “men’s cologne”

。 。 。 END OF 4 。 。 。

o-n “on” “gone” “silicon”

o-n-g “long” “song” “Hong Kong”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

o-o-d “wood” “good” “womanhood”

o-u-l-d “would” “could” “should”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

o-o-f “roof” “proof” “aloof”

o-o-k “book” “look” “shook”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

o-o-l “wool”

u-l “beautiful” “wonderful” “powerful”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

o-p-e “hope” “rope” “envelope”

o-a-p “soap”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

o-p “shop” “stop” “soda pop”

。 。 。 NEXT 4 。 。 。

o-r-e “store” “Singapore” “sophomore”

o-a-r “oar” “soar” “uproar”

o-o-r “door” “floor”

o-u-r “four” “pour”
(Both of these are “sight words” because other “**o-u-r**” words usually take on the “**ow-er**” sound - “sour” “hour” “flour”).

。 。 。 END OF 4 。 。 。

o-r “or” “for” “competitor”

o-r-m “storm” “form” “dorm”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

o-r-t “short” “sport” “passport”

o-u-r-t “county court”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

o-s-s “boss” “across” “tooth floss”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

o-s-t “most” “host” “ghost”

o-a-s-t “coast” “toast” “pot roast”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

o-a-t “oats” “throat” “river boat”

。 。 。 NEXT 3 。 。 。

o-u-g-h-t “bought” “fought” “thought”

a-u-g-h-t “caught” “fraught” “taught”

o-t “not” “hot” “apricot”

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

o-u-p “soup” “group” “recoup”

o-o-p “scoop” “troop” “loop”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

(NOTE: Be careful with the next two. Although spelled the same, the sounds are different):

o-v-e “move” “groove” “disapprove”

o-v-e “love” “glove” “above”

o-w “now” “cow” “anyhow”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

o-u-d “cloud” “loud” “proud”

o-w-d “crowd”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

(Note: “**O-w-n**” on its own is pronounced “**own**”. The following “**o-w-n**” is pronounced “**oun**”):

o-w-n “brown” “clown” “hand-me-down”

o-u-n “noun”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

o-u-n-d “round” “ground” “homeward-bound”

o-u-n-c-e “ounce” “announce” “pronounce”

o-u-n-t “count” “surmount” “discount”

o-u-r “our” “hour” “flour”

o-u-s-e “house” “mouse” “blouse”

o-u-t “out” “shout” “thereabout”

。 。 。 NEXT 8 。 。 。

u “Peru” “Hindu” “Zulu”

o “do” and “to”

e-w “new” “knew” “withdrew”

o-o “too” “zoo” “kangaroo”

u-e “blue” “glue” “true”

i-e-w “view”

o-e “canoe”

o-u-g-h “through”

。 。 。 END OF 8 。 。 。

u-b “tub” “club” “rub-a-dub-dub”

。 。 。 NEXT 3 。 。 。

u-c-h “much” “such.”

u-t-c-h “crutch” “clutch” “Dutch”

o-u-c-h “touch”

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 5 。 。 。

u-d-e “rude” “include” “solitude”

o-o-d “food” “mood” “brood”

o-u-'d “you’d”

e-u-d “feud”

e-w-d “lewd”

。 。 。 END OF 5 。 。 。

o o o NEXT 2 o o o

u-d “mud” “spud” “thud”

(Note the sound change of the “o-o-d” below from the “o-o-d” above.)

o-o-d “blood” “flood.”

o o o END OF 2 o o o

o o o NEXT 2 o o o

u-f-f “stuff” “puff” “fluff”

o-u-g-h “rough” “tough” “enough”

o o o END OF 2 o o o

u-g “drug” “rug” “bug”

u-g-e “huge”

u-c-k “luck” “truck” “Donald Duck”

o o o NEXT 4 o o o

u-l-e “rule” “mule”

o-o-l “pool” “school” “tool”

o-'l-l “who’ll”

o-u-'l-l “you’ll”

o o o END OF 4 o o o

u-l-l “dull” “gull” “annul”

u-l-t “adult” “result” “difficult”

o o o NEXT 4 o o o

u-m-e “presume” “assume” “perfume”

o-o-m “room” “groom” “broom”

o-m-b “tomb” “womb”

o-m “whom”

o o o END OF 4 o o o

。 。 。 NEXT 3 。 。 。

u-m “drum” “gum” “plum”

u-m-b “dumb” “thumb” “succumb”

o-m-e “come” “some” “become”

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

u-n-e “June” “dune” “opportune”

o-o-n “spoon” “balloon” “afternoon”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 3 。 。 。

u-n “sun” “gun” “run”

o-n “son” “ton” “won”

o-n-e “one” “none” “done”

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

u-n-c-h “lunch” “munch” “punch”

。 。 。 NEXT 3 。 。 。

u-n-g “hung” “lung” “sung”

o-u-n-g “young”

o-n-g-u-e “tongue”

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

u-n-k “drunk” “skunk” “stunk”

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

u-n-t “hunt” “grunt” “blunt”

o-n-t “front”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

u-p “up” “pup” “cup”

u-r-e “pure” “sure” “immature”

。 。 。 NEXT 3 。 。 。

u-r-n “burn” “spurn” “return”

e-a-r-n “earn” “learn” “yearn”

e-r-n “concern” “stern” “intern”

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 3 。 。 。

u-r-t “curt” “blurt” “hurt”

e-r-t “expert” “introvert” “convert”

i-r-t “shirt” and “skirt”

。 。 。 END OF 3 。 。 。

。 。 。 NEXT 2 。 。 。

u-s “us” “plus” “hippopotamus”

o-u-s “mysterious” “tenuous” “poisonous”

。 。 。 END OF 2 。 。 。

u-s-h “mush” “rush” “brush”

u-s-t “must” “just” “entrust”

NOTES

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