

# SPEAKING PATHWAYS

## PART ONE: LETTERS AND SOUNDS

### Track One: Short-Vowel Sounds

The short sound of **A** is /ă/. Atom /ă/, apple /ă/, and ant /ă/.

The short sound of **A** is /ă/, /ă/, /ă/.

“Bla-black, ca-cat. Black cat.”

“Jan’s black cat grabs a fat crab.”

The short sound of **E** is /ĕ/. Echo /ĕ/, exercise /ĕ/, and edge /ĕ/.

The short sound of **E** is /ĕ/, /ĕ/, /ĕ/.

“Pe-pet, fe-fell. Pet fell.”

“Jeff’s pet fell and rests in Ted’s bed.”

The short sound of **I** is /ĭ/. Itch /ĭ/ igloo /ĭ/, and in /ĭ/.

The short sound of **I** is /ĭ/, /ĭ/, /ĭ/.

“Si-six, fi-fish. Six fish.”

“Tim fills his dish with fish.”

The short sound of **O** is /ŏ/. as in on /ŏ/, octopus /ŏ/, and ostrich /ŏ/.

The short sound of **O** is /ŏ/, /ŏ/, /ŏ/.

“Ho-hot, ro-rocks. Hot rocks.”

“Robin hops on hot rocks in socks.”

The short sound of **U** is /ŭ/. as in Ugly /ŭ/, up /ŭ/, and umbrella /ŭ/.

The short sound of **U** is /ŭ/, /ŭ/, /ŭ/.

“Fu-fuzzy, bu-bugs. Fuzzy bugs.”

“Bud’s puppy gulps fuzzy bugs—*yuck!*”

### Track Two: Consonants

**M** says /m/ as in moon /m/, mouse /m/, and mittens /m/.

**N** says /n/ as in notes /n/, nurse /n/, and net /n/.

**R** says /r/ as in rain /r/, ring /r/, and rabbit /r/.

**L** says /l/ as in lips /l/, lamp /l/, and legs /l/.

**F** says /f/ as in fish /f/, finger /f/, and flower /f/.

**H** says /h/ as in heart /h/, hand /h/, and hat /h/.

**D** says /d/ as in dog /d/, drops /d/, and dolphin /d/.

**B** says /b/ as in bees /b/, bear /b/, and butterfly /b/.

**P** says /p/ as in present /p/, picture /p/, and parachute /p/.

**T** says /t/ as in triangle /t/, tree /t/, and tape /t/.

**J** says /j/ as in jet /j/, juggle /j/, and jaws /j/.

**G** says /g/ as in grapes /g/ glasses /g/, and goblet /g/.

**V** says /v/ as in vase /v/, violin /v/, and van /v/.

**W** says /w/ as in wink /w/, waffles /w/, and watermelon /w/.

**Y** says /y/ as in yes /y/, yell /y/, and yo-yo /y/.

**Z** says /z/ as in zoo /z/, zipper /z/, and zig zag /z/.

**K** says /k/ as in Ken /k/, kiss /k/, and Kim /k/.

**C** also says /k/ if it is followed by **U** as in cup /ku/, **O** as in cop /ko/, or **A** in cat /ka/,

but **C** says /s/ if it is followed by **E** as in cell /se/, or **I** as in city /si/.

**X** says /ks/ as in tax /ks/, mix /ks/, and fox /ks/.

**Q** is always used with the letter **U** and is pronounced /kwuh/  
such as queen /kwuh/, quack /kwuh/, and quake /kwuh/.

## Track Three: Consonant Digraphs

**S H** says /sh/ as in shop /sh/, wish /sh/, and cash /sh/.

**T H** says /th/ as in thing /th/, math /th/, and with /th/.

**T H** also says /th/ as in this /th/, that /th/, and these /th/.

**C H** says /ch/ as in cheese /ch/, punch /ch/, and ranch /ch/.

(At the end of a word /ch/ is usually spelled **T C H** as in match and pitch.)

**W H** says /wh/ as in who /wh/, whale /wh/, and where /wh/.

**I N G** says /ing/ as in sing, king, and ring. /ing/

**A N G** says /ang/ as in bang, hang, and sang. /ang/

**U N G** says /ung/ as in sung, hung, and rung. /ung/

**O N G** says /ong/ as in song, long, and gong. /ong/

**I N K** says /ink/ as in sink, link, and wink. /ink/

**A N K** says /ank/ as in sank, yank, and tank. /ank/

And **U N K** says /unk/ as in sunk, bunk, and junk. /unk/

## Track Four: Long-Vowel Sounds

Long **A** says /ā/ as in aim /ā/, cake /ā/, and Jane /ā/.

“Jane and Kate bake date cakes.” Long **A** says /ā/, /ā/, /ā/.

Long **E** says /ē/ as in each /ē/, Pete /ē/ and read /ē/.

“Pete reads to Dee, Jean, and me.” Long **E** says /ē/, /ē/, /ē/.

Long **I** says /ī/ as in ice cream /ī/, ride /ī/, and like /ī/.

“I like nice lime ice cream!” Long **I** says /ī/, /ī/, /ī/.

Long **O** says /ō/ as in go /ō/, joke /ō/, and mope /ō/.

“Joan woke, jokes, and rode home.” Long **O** says /ō/, /ō/, /ō/.

Long **U** has two sounds:

/yōō/ as in use /yōō/, cute /yōō/ and mule /yōō/.

Long **U** also says /ōō/ as in Luke /ōō/, rude /ōō/, and June /ōō/

“Luke and June see two cute mules.”

Long **U** says /ōō/, /ōō/, /ōō/, and /ōō/, /ōō/, /ōō/.

## Track Five: R-Modified Vowel Sounds

**A R** says /är/ as in park /är/, shark /är/, and Mark /är/.

**A R** says /är/, /är/, /är/.

**A R** can also say /âr/ as in care /âr/, bear /âr/, and chair /âr/.

**A R** can say /âr/, /âr/, /âr/.

**O R** says /ôr/ as in pork /ôr/, store /ôr/, and storm /ôr/.

**O R** says /ôr/, /ôr/, /ôr/.

**U R** says /ur/ as in fur /ur/, burn /ur/, and turn /ur/.

**U R** says /ur/, /ur/, /ur/.

## Track Six: Vowel Diphthongs

The /oi/ diphthong is spelled **O I** as in oil /oi/, noise /oi/, and voice /oi/.

/oi/ is also spelled **O Y** as in boy /oi/, enjoy /oi/, and convoy /oi/.

The /ou/ diphthong is spelled **O U** as in ouch /ou/, proud /ou/, and shout /ou/.

/ou/ is also spelled **O W** as in owl /ou/, browse /ou/, and growl /ou/.

## Track Seven: New Sounds

O can say /ô/ as in dog /ô/, Paul /ô/, and small /ô/.

O can say /ô/, /ô/, /ô/.

O O can say /oo/ as in look /oo/, push /oo/, and cookie /oo/.

O O can say /oo/, /oo/, /oo/.

/zh/ is best described as a “voiced sh” and is spelled several ways:

/zh/ is spelled S as in vision /zh/, treasure /zh/, pleasure /zh/.

/zh/ is spelled Z as in azure /zh/.

/shun/ is spelled T I O N in action, nation, and education.

/shun/ is spelled S I O N in words like mission and extension.

## PART TWO: SPELLING RULES AND PATTERNS

### Track Eight: Long-Vowel Digraphs

The long-A digraph is spelled A I as in rain, train, and Spain.

/ā/ is spelled A Y in words such as stray, today, and play.

/ā/ is spelled E Y in obey, they, and survey.

/ā/ is spelled E I in veil, vein, and reindeer.

/ā/ is spelled E A in steak, great, and break.

/ā/ is spelled E I G H in freight, neighbor, and eight. /ā/

The long-E digraph can be spelled in four different ways:

/ē/ is spelled E E in seed, weed, and need.

/ē/ is spelled E A in words like each, teach, and peach.

/ē/ is spelled I E as in grief and chief, but

/ē/ is spelled E I in receive and ceiling. /ē/

*“It’s I before E except after C*

*or when sounding like A*

*in neighbor and weigh!”*

The long-I digraph can be spelled in five different ways:

/î/ is spelled Y in sky, try, and fly.

/î/ is spelled I E in dries, flies, and tries.

/î/ is spelled U Y in buy and guy.

/î/ is spelled U I in guide, and disguise.

and /î/ is spelled I G H in right, night, and flight. /î/

The long-O digraph can be spelled in four different ways:

/ō/ is spelled O A in boat, goat, and road.

/ō/ is spelled O E in Joe, and goes.

/ō/ is spelled O W in slow, and row.

and /ō/ is spelled O U G H in dough, and although. /ō/

The long-U digraph can be spelled in eight different ways:

/ū/ is spelled O O in zoom, and spoon.

/ū/ is spelled E W in chew, and grew.

/ū/ is spelled U E in blue, and glue.

/ū/ is spelled U I in juice, and cruise.

/ū/ is spelled O U in soup, and group.

/ū/ is spelled O in do, and prove.

/ū/ is spelled W O in the number two. /ū/

/ü/ is also the sound of any *unaccented vowel*, such as the beginning and ending **A** in “**A**-mer´-ica.” This unaccented vowel sound is called a “schwa:”

**A** sounds like /ü/ in so´fa,  
**E** sounds like /ü/ in spo´ken,  
**I** sounds like /ü/ in san´ity,  
**O** sounds like /ü/ in gal´lop,  
and **U** sounds like /ü/ in fo´cus. /ü/

## Track Ten: R-Modified Vowel Spelling Patterns

**A R** sounds like /är/ in words like art, bark, and farm. /är/

**A R** can also sound like /ár/ and this sound has five different spellings:

/ár/ is spelled **A R E** in words like care, and dare.  
/ár/ is spelled **A I R** in words like air, and chair.  
/ár/ is spelled **E A R** in words like tear, and bear.  
/ár/ is spelled **E R E** in there, and where, and  
/ár/ is spelled **E I R** as in their (meaning “their toys”). /ár/

**U R** sounds like /ur/, and also can be spelled in five different ways:

/ur/ is spelled **e r** as in her.  
/ur/ is spelled **i r** as in bird.  
/ur/ is spelled **o r** as in work.  
/ur/ is spelled **u r** as in burn.  
and last, /ur/ is spelled **E A R** as in learn. /ur/

## Track Eleven: Miscellaneous Spelling Patterns

**O O** also can sound like /oo/, and has three different spellings:

/oo/ is spelled **O O** in words like look, and cookie.  
/oo/ is spelled **U** in words like pull, and bush.  
/oo/ is spelled **O U L** in could, would, and should. /oo/

/ô/ can be spelled in seven different ways altogether:

/ô/ is spelled **O** in words like dog and smog.  
/ô/ is spelled **A U** in Paul, because.  
/ô/ is spelled **A W** in dawn, hawk.  
/ô/ is spelled **A L** in halt, also.  
/ô/ is spelled **A L L** at the end of short-vowel words such as ball, tall, and small.  
/ô/ can be spelled **O U G H** in bought (as “I bought a car”),  
or thought (as “I thought I saw a pussycat!”)  
/ô/ also can be spelled **A U G H** in naughty. /ô/

/k/ can be spelled in four additional ways:

/k/ is spelled **C K** at the end of single-syllable words, such as duck, sick, and Jack.  
/k/ is spelled **I C** at the end of multisyllable words, such as frolic, picnic, and panic.  
*But*, /k/ is spelled **I C K** when a suffix is added to these words,  
as in frolicking, picnicker, and panicked. And finally,  
/k/ is sometimes spelled **C H** in words like school & Christmas.

/j/ is spelled **G E** at the end of long-vowel words such as age, rage.

It is **D G E** at the end of short-vowel words as ridge, judge.

Words ending in **F** change to **V E S** and sound like /vz/ when they become plural:

loaf becomes loaves, thief becomes thieves, and wolf becomes wolves.

... *goodbye now!*