

# spelling chart | consonants

## sounds & syllables

the sensible spelling system

/b/



**b** butterfly  
**-bb-** rubbish  
**-be** cube  
**bu-** build

/k/



**c** cat  
**k** kitten  
**-ck** sock  
**-ke** bake  
**qu** quick  
**ch-** school  
**-cc-** soccer  
**qu-** conquer  
**que** cheque

/ch/



**ch** cheese  
**tu** nature  
**-tch** catch  
**stion** question  
**c-** cello

/d/



**d** dog  
**-dd-** teddy  
**-de** ride  
**-ed** turned

/f/



**f** fish  
**ph** photo  
**-ff** sniff  
**-fe** knife  
**ugh** laugh  
**-ften** soften

/g/



**g** gift  
**-gg-** wiggle  
**gh-** ghost  
**gu-** guess  
**-gue** league

/h/



**h-** hat  
**wh-** whole

/j/



**j-** jar  
**ge,i,y** giant  
**-ge** fringe  
**-dge** fudge  
**-gi-** region  
**-dg-** badger  
**adj-** adjust

/l/



**l** leaf  
**-ll** pull  
**-le** pile  
**-lle** gazelle

/ul/



**-le** bottle

/m/



**m** mouse  
**-mm-** summer  
**-me** some  
**-mb** thumb  
**-mn** autumn

/um/



**sm** prism

/n/



**n** nail  
**-nn-** funny  
**-ne** one  
**gn** sign  
**kn-** knot

/ngl/



**-ng** king  
**-ng,k** wink  
**-ngue** tongue

/p/



**p** pan  
**-pp-** happy  
**-pe** ape

/r/



**r-** rabbit  
**-rr-** carry  
**wr-** wrist  
**rh-** rhyme

/s/



**s** sun  
**-ss** hiss  
**-se** horse  
**ce,i,y** cell  
**-ce** dance  
**sc,e,i,y** scent  
**-stle,en** castle  
**-sse** crevasse  
**sw-** sword

/sh/



**sh** shoe  
**-ti-** action  
**-ci-** special  
**-si-** mansion  
**-ssi-** mission  
**ch-** chef  
**-ssu** pressure  
**su** sugar

/zh/



**-su** treasure  
**-si-** vision  
**-ge** collage  
**g-** genre

/t/



**t** tree  
**-tt-** bottle  
**-te** late  
**-ed** tipped  
**-tte** rosette  
**-bt** doubt  
**pt** receipt

/th/



**th** thumb

/th/



**th** feather  
**-the** breathe

/v/



**v-** van  
**-ve** love  
**-f** of

/w/



**w-** water  
**-u-** quick  
**wh-** why

/ks/



**-x** box  
**-xe** axe

/gz/



**ex-** exit

/y/



**y-** yarn  
**-i-** onion

/z/



**z-** zombie  
**-zz** buzz  
**-s** his  
**-se** nose  
**-ze** freeze  
**x-** xylophone

# spelling chart | vowels

## sounds & syllables

the sensible spelling system

/a/



a- apple  
-ai- plait

/e/



e- egg  
-ea- bread  
a- many  
-ai- said  
-ei- leisure  
-ie- friend  
-u- bury

/i/



i- igloo  
-y- myth  
-a- cottage  
e- pretty  
-u- busy

/o/



o- octopus  
wa- watch  
-au- sausage  
-ough- cough

/u/



u- umbrella  
o- glove  
-oo- blood  
-ou- young

/oo/



-oo- book  
-u- push  
-o- wolf  
-ould- could

/ae/



ai- train  
-ay- play  
a- paper  
-ea<sup>k,t</sup>- break  
-ei- vein  
-ey- grey  
eight<sup>t</sup> eight  
-aight- straight  
-et- ballet

/ee/



ee bee  
ea seat  
e me  
-y- baby  
-i- alien  
-ey- monkey  
-ie- thief  
-ei- ceiling  
-ae- algae

/ie/



-ie- pie  
i find  
-y- fly  
-ight- night  
-ei- feisty  
-eight- height  
-ye- dye

/oy/



oi- coins  
oy boy

/ow/



ou- house  
ow crown  
-ough- plough

/oe/



oa- boat  
o go  
ow slow  
-oe- toe  
-ough- dough  
-eau- plateau

/ue/



-oo- moon  
-u- truth  
-o- move  
-ew- chew  
-ue- blue

-ou- soup  
-ui- fruit  
-oe- shoe  
-ough- through  
-eu- sleuth

/yue/



u- cube  
-ew- few  
-ue- value  
eu- euphoria

/ar/



ar car  
a- father  
al- half  
hear- heart

/air/



air chair  
-are- care  
-ear- bear  
-ere- where  
aer- aerial  
-eir- heir  
-aire- solitaire

/eer/



ear hear  
-ere- here  
-eer- cheer  
-ier- fierce

/or/



or horn  
-ore- more  
aw draw  
a<sup>l,l</sup> ball  
au- haunt  
war warm  
-oor- door

-our- four  
oar board  
-alk- walk  
ought bought  
aught caught  
-aur- dinosaur

/oor/



-oor- poor  
-ure- sure  
-our- tour

/yoor/



-ure- cure  
eur- eureka

/ur/



er germ  
ir bird  
ur burger  
wor- worm  
ear- earth  
-our- journey  
-ere- were

/uh/



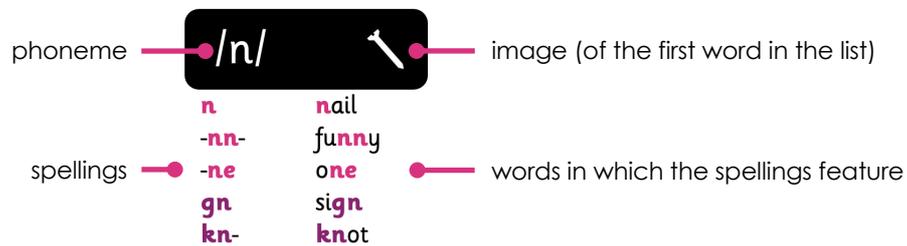
-er- spider  
a along  
-o- lesson  
-e- oven  
-i- evil  
-u- circus  
-ai- captain  
-ou- famous

-ar- collar  
-or- doctor  
-our- flavour  
-ure- treasure  
-re- metre  
-y- vinyl  
-ah- cheetah

The Sounds & Syllables spelling chart shows how the phonemes of British English\* are represented by spellings. It does not aim to be a complete representation of how spellings map onto these sounds but includes 247 sound-spelling matches – every frequently encountered match and some less frequent ones too. Any matches not included will be rarely encountered. The matches are separated into consonants (page 1) and vowels (page 2).

## sound-spelling groups

There are 28 sound-spelling groups displayed on the consonant page (24 consonant phonemes and 4 diphones\*\*) and 22 sound-spelling groups on the vowel page (20 vowel phonemes and 2 diphones). Each group contains a black box in which the phoneme (between / / symbols as is conventional) and an image is displayed. Below is a list of spellings for the phoneme and a word in which the spelling features.



## spellings

The spellings are listed in order of frequency that they represent the phoneme, with those at the top being the most frequent spellings. Spellings in pink (**n**, **nn** and **ne**) are those in the main spelling system and occur more frequently; spellings in purple (**gn** and **kn**) are rarer spellings.

Dashes before and after spellings indicate the position that a spelling is typically (but not necessarily exclusively) found within words.

A spelling with no dashes indicates that it is found in all positions with a word

**n** nail sun planet

A spelling with a dash to its right indicates that letters usually follow it. As such it does not typically end words.

**kn-** know knight kneel

A spelling with a dash to its left indicates that letters usually precede it. As such it does not typically begin words.

**-ne** one line engine

A spelling with a dash either side indicates that letters usually precede and follow it. As such it is typically found in the middle of words.

**-nn-** funny tunnel bonnet

A spelling with letters before it indicates that these letters typically (but not always) precede the spelling.

**war** warm warn award

A spelling with letters after it indicates that these letters typically (but not always) follow the spelling.

**ce,i,y** cell city icy

\*it is impossible to capture the rich variety of accents and pronunciations on spelling chart (for example, some accents do not distinguish between /u/ (put) and /oo/ (book))

\*\*a diphone is a spelling that represents two phonemes