

PRONUNCIATION

Phonetic respelling is placed in round brackets immediately after such words as require it, and the symbols in the PHONETIC SCHEME are primarily intended for this purpose. But respelling is often saved by employing the same symbols in the black type of the actual word; **bān**ish, for instance, has no respelling, and **dispō**se has only (-z).

Vowel symbols given in the Scheme with -, ˘, —, or ˆ, are also used without these marks to denote a vague indeterminate sound, which is almost identical for all vowels and (except in studied elocution) has no clear relation to the corresponding vowel marked ˘ etc. (e.g., the a in *about* is like the o in *reason*, *proceed*, and is not like ā or ä). When so used in brackets, the indeterminates are printed in italics, thus: **ā**go (*agō*), **proceed** (*prosēd*), **particular** (*partīkūlar*). Used in the actual word, they are recognized by the absence of the marks -, ˘, etc.; thus in **sā**crament, **cō**mmon, **bē**ggarily, all the unmarked vowels (a; e; o; ar) are indeterminate. This does not apply to the last six symbols in the Scheme, which never have marks over them and are always distinct.

Indeterminate endings in -n, -m, -l or -le, when they require respelling, are also represented thus: **poison** (-zn), **fū**sion (-zhn), **tē**nsion (-shn), **ō**cean (-shn), **lī**sten (-sn), **bo**som (bōozm), **hū**stle (-sl), **offī**cial (-shl), **we**asel (-zl), the vowel sound being that similarly indicated by the actual spelling of *spasm*, *prism*, etc.

PHONETIC SCHEME

Consonants: **b**; **ch** (*chīn*); **d**; **dh** (*dhe = the*); **f**; **g** (*go*); **h**; **j**; **k**; **l**; **m**; **n**; **ng** (*sīng*); **ngg** (*fīngger*); **p**; **r**; **s** (*sīp*); **sh** (*shīp*); **t**; **th** (*thīn*); **v**; **w**; **y**; **z**; **zh** (*vīzhn = vision*).

Vowels: **ā ē ī ō ū ȳ** (*mate mete mite mote mute mite*)
ä ǣ ĩ ȳ ȳ (*rack reck rick rock ruck ruck*)
ār ēr ȳr ȳr (*mare mere mire more mure*)
ār ȳr ȳr (*part pert port*)
ah aw oi oor ow ovr (*bah bawl boil boor brow bower*)

Vowels marked ˘ may be pronounced either way, e.g. *pā*triot (*pā-* or *pā-*). In all vowel symbols with **r** (**ār**, **ār**, etc.), the **r**, besides influencing the vowel sound, has its consonantal value when followed by a vowel in the next syllable of the word or in the following word (in *fearīng* but not in *fearful*, in *far away* but not in *far gone*).

ACCENT

The main accent is shown by the mark ˈ, usually placed at the end of the stressed syllable; but, division into syllables being arbitrary in English, positions for the accent that would disguise the pronunciation are avoided; thus **stār**ˈŷ but **cā**rrŷ, **wō**llˈen but **cō**llˈŷ, **lō**cˈal but **vē**lōˈcītŷ, **ō**vˈer but **cō**ˈver (*kū-*), **mū**ddˈŷ but **mū**dˈdle. The placing of two accents on a word means either (a) that the two marked syllables are equally stressed, as in *ding-dong*ˈ, or (b) that among good speakers the one accentuation has as many adherents as the other, or (c) that the stress varies according to position in the sentence as explained in the dictionary article -ED². In the thousands of compounds given under their first elements among the alphabetically arranged combinations, accent is thus shown: if there is no hyphen separating the parts, the accent is always given (*back*ˈbone, *backslide*ˈ); if there is a hyphen, the regular usage is for the first of the compounded words to be stressed, and the

accent is then usually omitted (so *oak-apple*); if the stress falls, contrary to this rule, on the second component, it is marked (*head-on*ˈ adv.); if the stress is variable, each part has an accent (*high-strung*ˈ).

PRONUNCIATION WITHOUT RESPELLING

All the further information necessary for the pronunciation of any word or part of a word that is not respelt is contained in the following six paragraphs; the assumptions made in these hold unless the contrary is shown in brackets.

1. Any letter or combination in the Phonetic Scheme has the value there shown; e.g., **aw** as in *awl*, not as in *awake* (*awāk*ˈ); and **gīngger**, **līngger**, would be required to rhyme with *singer* unless **gīngger** were followed by (-j-), and **līngger** by (-ngg-).

2. The following additional symbols are used in the black type:

é = **i** (*nāk*ˈéd, *rēlŷˈ, *cōllˈége, *prīvˈét)
ŕ, **ŭ**, = **er** (*bŕ*th, *bŭrn)
ȳ, **ȳ**, = **i**, **i** (*īmpŷˈ, *sūnnˈŷ).******

3. Final **e** unmarked is not indeterminate, but mute (**sā**ne, **indū**cˈtive; cf. **rē**cīpē, **dī**lētˈtānˈtē).

4. A doubled consonant is pronounced as single (**sī**llˈŷ, **mā**nnˈish, **bŭ**ttˈer), not as in *cō*llˈŷ (*-li*) or *plā*nˈnēss (*-n-n*).

5. The following combinations and letters have the values shown:

Vowels.	Consonants.
ae = ā (<i>aegis</i>)	c is 'hard' and = k (<i>cob</i> , <i>cry</i> , <i>tal</i> c), but c before e , i , y , is 'soft' and = s (<i>ice</i> , <i>icy</i> , <i>city</i>)
ai = ā (<i>pain</i>)	dg = j (<i>judgement</i>)
air = ār (<i>fair</i>)	g before e , i , y , is 'soft' and = j (<i>age</i> , <i>gin</i> , <i>orgy</i>)
au = aw (<i>maul</i>)	kn = n at beginning of word or element of compound (<i>knot</i> , <i>unknot</i>)
ay = ā (<i>say</i>)	n before k , 'hard' c , q , x , = ng (<i>zinc</i> , <i>uncle</i> , <i>tank</i> , <i>banquet</i> , <i>minx</i>)
ea , ee , = ē (<i>mean</i> , <i>meet</i>)	ph = f (<i>photo</i>)
ear , eer , = ēr (<i>fear</i> , <i>beer</i>)	qu = kw (<i>quit</i>)
eu , ew , = ū (<i>feud</i> , <i>few</i>)	tch = ch (<i>batch</i>)
le = ō (<i>thief</i>)	wr = r at beginning of word or element of compound (<i>wry</i> , <i>awry</i>)
ler = ēr (<i>pier</i>)	x = ks (<i>fox</i>)
oa = ō (<i>boat</i>)	χ is the sound in Scots and German <i>loch</i> .
ou = ow (<i>bound</i>)	
oy = oi (<i>coy</i>)	

6. The following terminations have the values shown:

-age = -ij (<i>garbage</i>)	-sm = -zm (<i>atheism</i> , <i>spasm</i>)
-ate = -it or -at (<i>mandate</i>)	-tion = -shon (<i>salvation</i>)
-ey = -i (<i>donkey</i>)	-ture = -cher as well as -tūr , esp. in common words.
-ous = -us (<i>furious</i>)	

INFLEXION

The rules assumed, exceptions to which are noted in a bracket placed after a word's grammatical description, are given below. The term 'sibilants' stands for words ending in **-s**, **-x**, **-z**, **-sh** or soft **-ch**, 'o wds' for all that end in **-o**, 'e wds' for all that end in mute **-e**, and 'y wds' for all that end in **-y** not preceded by a vowel (e.g. *deny*, *puppy*, but not *bray*, *donkey*).

1. Plural of nouns. Sibilants add **-es** (*boxes*, *porches*); **-y** wds change **-y** into **-ies** (*puppies*); the plural of **-o** wds is usually stated thus, **photo** n. (pl. *~s*), **potato** n. (pl. *~es*); other nouns add **-s** (*books*).