

The 44* Phonemes

Following is a list of the 44 phonemes along with the letters or groups of letters that represent those sounds.

Phoneme (speech sound)	Graphemes** (letters or groups of letters representing the <i>most common</i> spellings for the individual phonemes)	Examples
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Consonant Sounds:

1.	/b/	b, bb	big, rubber
2.	/d/	d, dd, ed	dog, add, filled
3.	/f/	f, ph	fish, phone
4.	/g/	g, gg	go, egg
5.	/h/	h	hot
6.	/j/	j, g, ge, dge	jet, cage, barge, judge
7.	/k/	c, k, ck, ch, cc, que	cat, kitten, duck, school, occur, antique, cheque
8.	/l/	l, ll	leg, bell
9.	/m/	m, mm, mb	mad, hammer, lamb
10.	/n/	n, nn, kn, gn	no, dinner, knee, gnome
11.	/p/	p, pp	pie, apple
12.	/r/	r, rr, wr	run, marry, write
13.	/s/	s, se, ss, c, ce, sc	sun, mouse, dress, city, ice, science
14.	/t/	t, tt, ed	top, letter, stopped
15.	/v/	v, ve	vet, give
16.	/w/	w	wet, win, swim
17.	/y/	y, i	yes, onion
18.	/z/	z, zz, ze, s, se, x	zip, fizz, sneeze, laser, is, was, please, Xerox, xylophone

Phoneme (speech sound)	Graphemes** (letters or groups of letters representing the <i>most common</i> spellings for the individual phonemes)	Examples
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Consonant Digraphs:

19.	/th/ (not voiced)	th	thumb, thin, thing
20.	/th/ (voiced)	th	this, feather, then
21.	/ng/	ng, n	sing, monkey, sink
22.	/sh/	sh, ss, ch, ti, ci	ship, mission, chef, motion, special
23.	/ch/	ch, tch	chip, match
24.	/zh/	ge, s	garage, measure, division
25.	/wh/ (with breath)	wh	what, when, where, why

Short Vowel Sounds:

26.	/a/	a, au	hat, laugh
27.	/e/	e, ea	bed, bread
28.	/i/	i	if
29.	/o/	o, a, au, aw, ough	hot, want, haul, draw, bought
30.	/u/	u, o	up, ton

Long Vowel Sounds:

31.	/ā/	a, a_e, ay, ai, ey, ei	bacon, late, day, train, they, eight, vein
32.	/ē/	e, e_e, ea, ee, ey, ie, y	me, these, beat, feet, key, chief, baby
33.	/ī/	i, i_e, igh, y, ie	find, ride, light, fly, pie
34.	/ō/	o, o_e, oa, ou, ow	no, note, boat, soul, row
35.	/ū/	u, u_e, ew	human, use, few, chew

Phoneme (speech sound)	Graphemes** (letters or groups of letters representing the <i>most common</i> spellings for the individual phonemes)	Examples
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Other Vowel Sounds:

36.	/oo/	oo, u, oul	book, put, could
37.	/ōō/	oo, u, u_e	moon, truth, rule

Vowel Diphthongs:

38.	/ow/	ow, ou, ou_e	cow, out, mouse, house
39.	/oy/	oi, oy	coin, toy

Vowel Sounds Influenced by r:

40.	/a(r)/	ar	car
41.	/ā(r)/	air, ear, are	air, chair, fair, hair, bear, care
42.	/i(r)/	irr, ere, eer	mirror, here, cheer
43.	/o(r)/	or, ore, oor	for, core, door
44.	/u(r)/	ur, ir, er, ear, or, ar	burn, first, fern, heard, work, dollar

Source: Orchestrating Success in Reading by Dawn Reithaug (2002).

*** The number of phonemes is different in some linguistics textbooks; this is evidence of the difficulty of classifying (Moats, 1998).**

**** This list does not include all possible graphemes for a given phoneme.**