

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

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### Consonant Digraphs:

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

### Short Vowel Sounds:

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

### Long Vowel Sounds:

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

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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.**