

## Alternative Spellings of Phonemes – Phase 5c

Phoneme	Alternative spellings (more common spellings in bold)	Best Guesses
<b>/c/</b>	<b>c</b> (cat), <b>k</b> (kitten), <b>ck</b> (rock), ch (school), qu (marquee), que (plaque)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = c</li> <li>• Best guess following a short vowel sound is ck.</li> </ul>
<b>/ch/</b>	<b>ch</b> (chin) <b>tch</b> (patch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = ch</li> </ul>
<b>/f/</b>	<b>f</b> (fin), <b>ff</b> (stuff), ph (phone), gh (enough)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = f</li> <li>• After a short vowel sound, best guess is ff</li> </ul>
<b>/j/</b>	<b>j</b> (jug), <b>g</b> (rage), <b>dge</b> (nudge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = j</li> </ul>
<b>/m/</b>	<b>m</b> (man), <b>mm</b> (summer), <b>mb</b> (lamb)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = m</li> </ul>
<b>/n/</b>	<b>n</b> (nut), <b>nn</b> (runner), <b>kn</b> (knit), <b>gn</b> (gnat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = n</li> </ul>
<b>/r/</b>	<b>r</b> (run), <b>wr</b> (writing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = r</li> </ul>
<b>/s/</b>	<b>s</b> (sit), <b>ss</b> (hiss), <b>c</b> (receive), <b>sc</b> (science)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = s</li> <li>• After a short vowel sound, best guess is ss.</li> </ul>
<b>/sh/</b>	<b>sh</b> (ship), <b>ch</b> (chef), <b>t</b> (potion), <b>ss</b> (mission), <b>s</b> (explosion), <b>c</b> (electrician)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = sh</li> </ul>
<b>/v/</b>	<b>v</b> (van), <b>ve</b> (leaves)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = v</li> </ul>
<b>/w/</b>	<b>w</b> (win), <b>wh</b> (when)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = w</li> <li>• Best guess in question words = wh</li> </ul>
<b>/e/</b>	<b>e</b> (egg), <b>ea</b> (bread)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = e</li> </ul>
<b>/i/</b>	<b>i</b> (it), <b>y</b> (hypnosis),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = i</li> </ul>
<b>/ai/</b>	<b>ai</b> (chain), <b>ay</b> (day), <b>a_e</b> (cake), eigh (eight), ey (grey), ei (rein), ea (brake).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = a_e</li> <li>• ay is usually only found at the end of words</li> <li>• ai is usually only found in the middle of words</li> </ul>
<b>/ee/</b>	<b>ee</b> (green), <b>ea</b> (clean), <b>y</b> (happy), <b>e_e</b> (theme), ie (piece), ei (receive), ey (donkey), eo (people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess in the middle of a word = ee or ea</li> <li>• Best guess at the end of a word = y</li>   <li>• The rule i before e except after c can be useful but only where the c makes an /s/ sound.</li> </ul>
<b>/igh/</b>	<b>igh</b> (light), <b>y</b> (sky) <b>i_e</b> (fine), i (icycle), eye (eyes),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = i_e</li> <li>• igh is usually followed by t e.g. might. There are a few exceptions e.g. high and sigh.</li> </ul>

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<b>/oa/</b>	<b>oa (boat), ow (snow), o_e (rose), o (radio), oe (toe), ough (though)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = o_e</li> <li>• oa is another common spelling in the middle of words</li> <li>• ow is common at the end of words.</li> </ul>
<b>(y)/oo/</b>	<b>ue (cue), u_e (tune), ue (blue), ew (stew) you (youth)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = u_e</li> <li>• ew is most common at the end of words</li> <li>• ue is also usually only found at the end of words.</li> </ul>
<b>/oo/</b>	<b>u_e (flute), oo (cool), ew (drew), ue (blue), ui (fruit), u (ludo)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = u_e</li> <li>• Another common spelling is oo</li> <li>• ew is most common at the end of words</li> <li>• ue is also usually only found at the end of words.</li> </ul>
<b>/ar/</b>	<b>ar (car), a (spa) – more common in the south of England e.g, glass, al (palm), ear (heart)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is one of the few unusual phonemes where there is no clear best guess.</li> <li>• ear is very unusual</li> </ul>
<b>/or/</b>	<b>or (fork), aw (lawn), au (August), al (talk), our (four), ore (ignore), oor (floor)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is one of the few unusual phonemes where there is no clear best guess.</li> </ul>
<b>/ur/</b>	<b>ur (fur), ir (bird), er (farmer), ear (earth), re (metre)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess at the end of the word = er</li> <li>• Months, seasons, family words and comparatives all end in er.</li> <li>• Measurement words often end in re e.g. metre, litre.</li> </ul>
<b>/ow/</b>	<b>ow (cow), ou (found)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess at the end of words or when followed by n = ow</li> <li>• Most other words are spelled with ou</li> </ul>
<b>/oi/</b>	<b>oi (boil), oy (toy)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess at the beginning or in the middle of a word = oi</li> <li>• Best guess at the end of a word = oy</li> </ul>
<b>/ear/</b>	<b>ear (ear), ere (here), eer (beer)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = eer</li> </ul>
<b>/air/</b>	<b>air (fair), are (hare), ear (bear), ere (there)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best guess = are or air</li> </ul>