

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

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