

Silent 'e'. The letter 'e' is not pronounced at the end of words, but it affects the pronunciation of the preceding vowel. Look at the following words:

Kate /kɛt/ Pete /pi:t/ Mike /maɪk/ Rose /rəʊz/ Duke /dju:k/
cat /kæt/ pet /pɛt/ Mick /mɪk/ Ross /rɒs/ duck /dʌk/

1 Pronouncing the letter 'a'.

/eɪ/	/ɑ:/	/ɔ:/	/æ/
came	darling	saw	bad
train	afternoon	all	hand
pay	past	talk	
	bath		

General rules: /eɪ/ a+consonant+e, a+i/y.

/ɑ:/ a+r, and often a+f/s + consonant, a+th.

/ɔ:/ a+w, a+ll, a+l+k.

/æ/ in most other cases -> a+final or double consonant.

Special cases: /ɒ/ what, wasn't, want, watch, wash

/ɛ/ any, many, ate, says, said

/ə/ England, America, umbrella, about

Practice. Divide these words into four groups, according to the pronunciation of the vowel 'a': apple, arm, axe, awful, bag, ball, black, call, car, fall, glass, happy, hard, hat, hate, late, law, make, may, paid, part, pass, rain, small, stand, start, wait, walk.

/eɪ/	/ɑ:/	/ɔ:/	/æ/
hate	arm	awful	apple
late	car	ball	axe
make	glass	call	bag
may	hard	fall	black
paid	part	law	happy
rain	pass	small	hat
wait	start	walk	stand

2 Pronouncing the letter 'e'.

/i:/	/ɪ/	/ɛ/	/ɜ:/	/ə/
complete	houses	set	certain	cinema
even	ticket	bed	serve	paper
fever	England	flesh		
these	pretty			

3 Pronouncing the letter 'i'.

/ɪ/ ship	/aɪ/ fine, high	/ɜ:/ girl	/i:/ police, machine
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Practice. Where do these words belong?

arrive, bird, bright, excite, fight, film, light, like, lips, pick, skirt, stir, think, with, give.

/ɪ/	/aɪ/	/ɜ:/
film	arrive	bird
lips	bright	skirt
pick	excite	stir
think	fight	
with	light	
give	like	

4 Pronouncing the letter 'o'.

/ʌ/	/ɒ/	/ɔ:/	/ɜ:/	/əʊ/
mother	job	short	work	home
some	stop	north	word	go

Special cases: /u:/ do

Practice: where do these words belong?

brother, clock, come, dog, don't, forty, got, know, love, month, morning, on, one, phone, sport, storm, word, world, worse, worst.

/ʌ/	/ɒ/	/ɔ:/	/ɜ:/	/əʊ/

4 Pronouncing the letter 'o'.

/ʌ/	/ɒ/	/ɔ:/	/ɜ:/	/əʊ/
mother	job	short	work	home
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Special cases: /u:/ do

Practice: where do these words belong?

brother, clock, come, dog, don't, forty, got, know, love, month, morning, on, one, phone, sport, storm, word, world, worse, worst.

/ʌ/	/ɒ/	/ɔ:/	/ɜ:/	/əʊ/
brother	clock	forty	word	don't
come	dog	morning	worse	know
love	got	sport	worst	phone
month	on	storm		
one				

5 Pronouncing the letter 'u'.

/ʌ/	/ɜ:/	/u:/	/ju:/	/ə/
hut	Thursday	June	tune	literature
hungry	burn	rule	music	
	surprise			

General rules: /ʌ/ u + final consonant or two consonants.

/ɜ:/ u+r + consonant in stressed syllables.

/u:/ other cases: r/s/l + u - fruit, suit, true.

/ju:/ never after /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /r/ or consonant + /l/

/ə/ when unstressed.

Special cases: /ɪ/ busy, business, minute (n.)

/ʊ/ put, pull, push, truth

Practice. Divide these words into five groups, according to the pronunciation of the vowel 'u'.

burglar, butter, computer, customs, figure, fortunately, furniture, industry, introduce, jump, lunch, number, purpose, run, stupid, summer, supermarket, suppose, turn, uncle, under, universe, use.

/ʌ/	/ɜ:/	/u:/	/ju:/	/ə/
butter	burglar	supermarket	computer	figure
customs	furniture	fortunately	introduce	industry
jump	purpose		stupid	suppose
lunch	turn		universe	
number			use	
run				
summer				
uncle				
under				