

Chapter 4
Part 2



Phonetics
Engl 328

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How combining with other sounds affects pronunciation of vowels

The Phonological rules determine the positions in which the vowels can occur and the way they should be pronounced depending on the combination with other vowels.

What do we mean by Phonological rules?

The changes that are determined by the rules of the language.

What do the phonological rules tell us?

- what sounds can occur in which positions.
- What sounds can combine with what other sounds
- How the sounds are pronounced when they combine with other sounds.

How combining with other sounds affects pronunciation of vowels

What are the phonological rules of English?

1. **Some of the vowels can occur in all positions: initial, middle and final, but some can occur only in some of these positions.**

a. /i:/, /u:/, /ɑ:/, /ɔ:/, /ɜ:/, /ɪ/, and /ə/ can occur in all positions

	Initial	Middle	Final
/i:/	Each /i:tʃ/	Seed /si:d/	See /si:/
/u:/	Ooze /u:z/	Soon /su:n/	True /tru:/
/ɑ:/	Arm /ɑ:m/	Park /pɑ:k/	Far /fɑ:/
/ɔ:/	Ought /ɔ:t/	Caught /kɔ:t/	Saw /sɔ:/
/ɜ:/	Earth /ɜ:θ/	Burn /bɜ:n/	Fur /fɜ:/
/ɪ/	If /ɪf/	Bit /bɪt/	Pity /petɪ/
/ə/	Above /əbʌv/	Control /kəntroʊl/	Finger /fɪŋə/

How combining with other sounds affects pronunciation of vowels

What are the phonological rules of English?

b. But /ʌ/, /æ/, /e/, /ɒ/, and /ʊ/ occur only in some positions but not others

	Initial	Middle	Final
/ʌ/	Up /ʌp/	But /bʌt/	—
/æ/	Am /æm/	Mat /mæt/	—
/e/	Egg /eg/	Pet /pet/	—
/ɒ/	Ox /ɒks/	Dog /dɒg/	—
/ʊ/	—	Put /pʊt/	To /tʊ/

How combining with other sounds affects pronunciation of vowels

What are the phonological rules of English?

- 2. Vowels are longer when they are followed by a voiced consonant and when they occur in the final position than when they are by a voiceless consonant.**

E.g. The vowel /i:/ is longer in bead /bi:d/ and bee /bi:/ than in beat /bi:t/

- 3. Vowels are oral sounds unless when these sounds are followed by nasal consonants so they become nasal vowels**

Oral vowels	Nasal vowels
Tip /tɪp/	Tin /tɪn/
Type /taɪp/	Time /taɪm/
Fight /faɪt/	Fine /faɪn/
Pet /pet/	Pen /pen/
Cup /kʌp/	Come /kʌm/
Boot /bu:t/	Boom /bu:m/

How grammar affects the pronunciation of vowels

A number of words in English that end in –ate function as both verbs and nouns or verbs and adjectives. The pronunciation of these words is different depending on the part of speech.

	Verb	Noun	Adjective
Advocate	ædvəkɛɪt	ædvəkət	_____
delegate	dɛlɪgɛɪt	dɛlɪgət	_____
Intimate	ɪntɪmɛɪt	_____	ɪntɪmət
Graduate	grædʒjʊɛɪt	grædʒjʊət	_____

How spelling affects the pronunciation of vowels

In English we use 6 letters to represent vowels. These are: A, E, I, O, U, and Y.

1- Words with only 1 vowel sound; they can have either

- (C) (C) + V + C (C)
- (C) (C) + V + C + a word-final E

	(C) (C) + V + C (C)	(C) (C) + V + C + a word-final E
(A)	/æ/ E.g. Cap /kæp/	/eɪ/ E.g. cape /keɪp/
(E)	/e/ E.g. met /met/	/i:/ E.g. mete /mi:t/
(I)	/ɪ/ E.g. rid /rɪd/	/aɪ/ E.g. ride /raɪd/
(O)	/ɒ/ or /ɑ:/ E.g. mod /mɒd/	/əʊ/ or /oʊ/ E.g. Mode /məʊd/
(U)	/ʌ/ E.g. cut /kʌt/	/ju:/ E.g. cute /kju:t/

However, there are some exceptions like give, have, done, and come.

How spelling affects the pronunciation of vowels

2- These six letters differ in their pronunciation if they are followed by the letter R and this R may or may not be followed by a consonant.

	Followed by other consonants	Followed by R
(A)	/æ/ E.g. Cap /kæp/	/ɑ:/ E.g. car/kɑ:/
(E)	/e/ E.g. met /met/	/ɜ:/ E.g. dirt /dɜ:t/ curl /kɜ:l/
(I)	/ɪ/ E.g. rid /rɪd/	
(U)	/ʌ/ E.g. cut /kʌt/	
(O)	/ɒ/ or /ɑ:/ E.g. mod /mɒd/	/ɔ:/ E.g. more /mɔ:/

How spelling affects the pronunciation of consonants

3- A characteristic feature of English is that in many words pairs of vowel letters occur together and these pairs of letters or digraphs represent different sounds in different words.

	Generally	Other cases
AI	/eɪ/ E.g. mail / meɪ /	/ɪ/ or /ə/ E.g. captain /kæpt ən /
AU	/ɔ:/ E.g. clause / klɔ: z/	/ɑ:/ or /æ/ E.g. Laugh /l ɑ: f/
EA	/i:/ E.g. beat / bi:t /	/e/, /eɪ/, /ɜ:/, /ɑ:/, /ɪə/ or /ɪ/, /eə/ or /e/
EI	/eɪ/ E.g. rein / reɪ n/	/i:/ E.g. seize / si:z / /aɪ/ E.g. height / haɪ t/
EE	/i:/ E.g. green / gri:n /	————

	Generally	Other cases
IE	/aɪ/ E.g. die / daɪ /	/i:/ E.g. piece / pi:s /
OA	/əʊ/ or /oʊ/ E.g. boat / bəʊ t/	/ɔ:/ when followed by R, E.g. board / bɔ: d/
OE	/əʊ/ or /oʊ/ E.g. toe / təʊ /	/u:/ E.g. shoe / ʃu: /
OI	/ɔɪ/ E.g. boil / bɔɪ /	————
OU	/aʊ/ E.g. house / haʊ s/	/əʊ/ or /oʊ/ when followed by L, soul / səʊ / /ɔ:/ when followed by R, source / sɔ:s / /u:/ group / gru:p / /ʌ/ couple / kʌpəl /
OO	/u:/ E.g. cool / ku:l /	/ʊ/ E.g. book / bʊk / /ʌ/ blood / blʌd /

How spelling affects the pronunciation of vowels

4- There are also a sequence where a vowel letter occurs with W or Y, which together represent single vowel sounds.

	General	Other cases
AW	/ɔ:/ E.g. draw /drɔ:/	_____
AY	/eɪ/ E.g. day /deɪ/	_____
EW	/u:/ or /ju:/ E.g. new /nju:/	/əʊ/ E.g. sew /sew/
EY	/eɪ/ E.g. they /ðeɪ/	/i:/ E.g. key /ki:/
OW	/əʊ/ or /oʊ/ E.g. tow /toʊ/	/aʊ/ E.g. cow /kaʊ/
OY	/ɔɪ/ E.g. boy /bɔɪ/	_____

This is all for today

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK 😊