

Vowellery

This book is a guide to pronunciation
Of vowels in all their variations

We can say A as in **pay** or **play** or **way** or **day** or the month of **May**
Or **gate** or **plate** or **Kate** and **Nate**
Don't be **late** for your **date** or you won't find a **mate**

A can be ah, as in **father-in-law**
or **saw** or **claw** or a puppy dog's **paw**
or **ha ha ha**
or **blah blah blah**

A can be a as in **Pat and Matt**
or **Cat** in the **Hat**
or **rat** or **bat** or **flat** or **hat**
or lots of other things like **that**

E can be e as in **cheese** for **free**
one for you and **three** for **me**
has anybody seen my **keys**?
There they are, hanging on that **tree**

Or E can be eh as in **Fred** went to **bed**
Or you might get a **gem** on the day that you're **wed**

E can be e as in **dancer** or **singer**
But actually, any vowel
Can be a nearly silent grunt
As in **dollar** or **tower** or **towel**
Collar or **camel** or **color**
Number or **pencil** or **sir**
The **bird** is the **word**
and it may look **absurd**
but **fir** sounds the same as **fur**

I can be i as in **ice** cream is **nice**
Or i as in **ship** or in **trip**
It's simple enough
To remember this stuff
But that isn't all i can be
I can also be e as in **skiing** with **wii**
Or do re **mi** fa so la **ti**

O can be o as in **cone**, **phone** or **bone**
Or ah as in **hot** or **not**
(Oh, what a **bother** – it sounds like the a in father)
O can be uh as in **mother** or **brother**
But that isn't all that o's got
When it is doubled, you're in for some trouble
Actually, quite a lot
Double o can be oo as in **look** at this **book**
It can teach you how to **cook**
Or it can be uh as in **flood** or **blood**
Which oozes red and bright
Double o can be ooo as in **moo** at the **moon**
Which is what a cow might do at night

U can be **useful**, it **usually** is
In it's own **unique** sort of way
My **unicorn** has a **ukulele**
He can't **figure** out how to play

U can be oo as in **tunes** on the **dunes**
That you sing on a **June** day so fair
Or U can be uh as in
Uncle Umberto's Ugly Underwear

Y, of course, is not a vowel
As in yellow or yodel or yak
But it sounds like an i as in "try not to cry,
I'll soon be **flying** back."

Or as in e, it's quite **easy** to see
She's **crazy** but she's **pretty**
And almost all adverbs end in -ly
He speaks **wittily** because he's witty

If that were all, it would be nice
But that is just a start
We are just now getting to
The interesting part

When there's a short vowel in the middle
Then you have a situation
If you add an e to the end of the word
There's a sudden transformation

Can becomes **cane**
and **man** becomes **mane**
and **pet** turns into **Pete**
a **fin** becomes **fine**
and **win** turns to **wine**
it can be very sweet
(There are exceptions
as **Don** has **done**
and **on** has been turned into **one**)
but **cod** turns to **code**
and stops it's splashin'
and **mod** becomes **mode**
because that's the fashion
cubs become **cubes**
and **tubs** become **tubes**
the center vowel is elongated
now lets put two vowels together
and make things really complicated

Ai is almost always a,
as in the **rain** in **Spain**
but there's an important exception which
we really must **explain**
Said is pronounced like **Ed** is **dead**
Or eating **bread** in **bed**
It doesn't matter how it looks
That isn't how it's **said**

Ea can pronounced as e
As in **speak** or **peak** or **leak**
Back when I was young I was
A long haired hippie **freak**

Or ea can be pronounced as eh **instead**
Like **bread** or **head** or **dead** or **lead**
the element, that is Pb
The verb, **to lead** is pronounced as e
Even though they're spelled the same
Don't look at me, I'm not to blame

There is still a 3rd choice you could make
Ea can be pronounced as a
As in **steak** or **break**

Au and ou are often the same
They both **brought** a fish to the dinner
One **caught** it, one **bought** it, but all those who came
Declared that they both were the winner

Ou can be ow as in **out** or **doubt**
But we use au in **sauerkraut**

Ou can uh as in **rough** and **tough**
And not **enough** by half

Ou can be oo as in **through** and **through**
And au is good for a **laugh**

Ei and ie have been covered elsewhere
But I'll cover them briefly, just to be fair
Ei is an a, like the **freight** on the **sleigh**
Ie can be eh as in **friend**
Or more commonly e as in **fiend** or **relieve**
I **believe** that's a good place to end

This list isn't comprehensive, but it will serve you well to learn it
It will help you with your spelling if you don't get mad and burn it