The English Alphabetic Code

(alternative chart for USA, Canada and various regional accents)

simple code		complex code						
units of sound phoneme/s	graphemes in key word examples	graphemes, or spelling alternatives, which **are code for** the sounds						
/s/	s **s**nake	-ss gla**ss**	-ce pala**ce**	-se hou**se**	ce ci cy **c**ents **c**ity bi**c**ycle	sc **sc**issors	-st- ca**st**le	
/a/	a **a**pple	-alf h**al**f	-alv c**al**ves			/s/	ps **ps**eudonym	
/t/	t **t**ent	-tt le**tt**er	-ed skipp**ed**	-bt de**bt**	pt **pt**erodactyl			
/i/	i **i**nsect	-y c**y**mbals						

/p/	p	-pp					
	pan	puppet					
/n/	n	-nn	kn	gn	-ine		
	net	bonnet	knot	gnome	engine		
/k/	k	c	-ck	ch	qu	que	
	kit	cat	duck	chameleon	bouquet	plaque	
/e/	e	-ea	-ai				
	egg	head	said again				
/h/	h	wh					
	hat	who					

/r/	r	-rr	wr	rh				
	rat	a**rr**ow	**wr**ite	**rh**inoceros				
/m/	m	-mm	-mb	-mn	-me			
	map	ha**mm**er	thu**mb**	colu**mn**	welco**me**			
/d/	d	-dd	-ed					
	dig	pu**dd**le	rain**ed**					
/g/	g	-gg	gu	gh	-gue			
	girl	ju**gg**le	**gu**itar	**gh**ost	vo**gue**			
/o/	o	wa	qua	alt				
	octopus	w**a**tch	qu**a**lify	s**a**lt				

/u/	u umbrella	-o son	-ou touch				
/l/	l ladder	-ll shell					
/ul/	-le kettle	-il pencil	-al hospital	-el camel			
/f/	f feathers	-ff cliff	ph photo	-gh laugh			
/b/	b bat	-bb rabbit	bu building				

/j/	j **j**ug	-ge cabba**ge**	ge **g**erbil	gi **g**iraffe	gy **g**ymnast	-dge fri**dge**		
/y/	y **y**awn							
/ai/	ai **ai**d	ay tr**ay**	a t**a**ble	-ae sund**ae**	a-e c**a**k**e**s	-ey pr**ey**	eigh **eigh**t	-ea br**ea**k
/w/	w **w**eb	wh **wh**eel	-u peng**u**in			**/ai/**	-aigh str**aigh**t	
/oa/	oa **oa**k	ow b**ow**	o y**o**-y**o**	-oe ob**oe**	o-e r**o**p**e**	-ough d**ough**	-eau plat**eau**	

/igh/	-igh	-ie	i	-y	i-e	ei	eye	
	n**igh**t	t**ie**	beh**i**nd	sh**y**	b**i**k**e**	**ei**der	**eye**	
/ee/	ee	ea	e	*-y	e-e	-ey	-ie	-ine
	eel	**ea**t	**e**mu	* sunn**y**	concr**e**t**e**	k**ey** *monk**ey**	chi**ef** *mov**ie**	sard**i**nes
/or/	or	oar	-oor	ore	-our	war	quar	
	f**or**k	**oar**s	d**oor**	sn**ore**	f**our**	w**ar**drobe	qu**ar**ter	
/aw/	aw	au	-al	augh	ough			
	d**aw**n	s**au**ce	ch**al**k	c**augh**t	th**ough**t			
/z/	z	-zz	-s	-se	-ze			
	zebra	ja**zz**	frie**s**	chee**se**	bree**ze**			

/ng/	-ng go**ng**	-n ju**n**gle			/ngk/	-nk i**nk**	-nc u**nc**le	
/v/	v **v**iolin	-ve do**ve**						
short /oo/	oo b**oo**k	-oul sh**oul**d				long /oo/	-ough thr**ough**	
long /oo/	oo m**oo**n	-ue bl**ue**	u-e fl**u**t**e**	-ew cr**ew**	-ui fr**ui**t	-ou s**ou**p	-o m**o**ve	eu pn**eu**matic
/ks/	-x fo**x**	-ks boo**ks**	-cks du**cks**	-kes ca**kes**		/gz/	-x e**x**am	-gs pe**gs**

/ch/	ch	-tch					/cher/	-ture
	chairs	pa**tch**						pic**ture**
/sh/	sh	ch	-ti	-ci	-ssi			
	sheep	**ch**ef	sta**ti**on	magi**ci**an	admi**ssi**on			
unvoiced /th/	th							
	thistle							
voiced /**th**/	th							
	there							
/kw/	qu							
	queen							

/ou/	**ou** **ou**ch	**ow** **ow**l	**-ough** pl**ough**					
/oi/	**oi** **oi**ntment	**oy** t**oy**						
/yoo/	**-ue** barbec**ue**	**u** **u**nicorn						
/er/	**er** m**er**maid	**ir** b**ir**thday	**ur** n**ur**se	**ear** **ear**th	**wor** w**or**ld	Canada:	**-our** hum**our**	**-re** theat**re**
/ar/	**ar** **ar**tist					USA:	**-or** hum**or**	**-er** theat**er**

/air/	air	-are	-ear	-ere			This chart is not definitive. You may discover further code – add this to the chart and/or main display wall.
	h**air**	h**are**	b**ear**	wh**ere**			
/eer/	eer	ear	-ere	-ier			Hollow letters alert the reader to various possible pronunciations.
	d**eer**	**ear**s	adh**ere**	cash**ier**			
/zh/	-si	-s	-z	-g	-ge		
	televi**si**on	trea**s**ure	a**z**ure	cour**g**ette	colla**ge**		

*-y, *-ey, *-ie as word endings are often pronounced between /i/ and /ee/. On this chart they appear in the /ee/ row.

The complexities of the English Alphabetic Code include:
1. one sound (phoneme) can be represented by one, two, three or four letters: e.g. /k/ **k**, /f/ **ph**, /igh/ **igh**, /ai/ **eigh**
2. one sound can be represented by different spellings (graphemes): e.g. /oa/ is represented by **o**, **oa**, **ow**, **oe**, **o-e**, **eau**, **ough**
3. one spelling can represent multiple sounds: e.g. '**ough**': /oa/ th**ough**, /aw/ th**ough**t, /oo/ thr**ough**, /ou/ pl**ough**

Key to the 12 units of Debbie Hepplewhite's Phonics International online synthetic phonics programme:

units1-5	Simple code with some spelling alternatives	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	grey = units 1 to 5	
6-12	/air/, /eer/, /zh/, split digraphs, complex code	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th

Debbie's programme introduces a simple code of at least one letter/s-sound correspondence for each of the 44+ sounds of speech of the English language.
The programme then expands to teach further spelling and pronunciation variations of the complex Alphabetic Code (all within 12 units of resources).