



























The English Alphabetic Code






simple code		complex code							
phoneme/s with picture prompts	graphemes in key word examples	graphemes, or spelling alternatives, which are code for the sounds							
/s/ 	S snake	-SS glass	-ce palace	-se house	ce cents	ci city	cy bicycle	SC scissors	-st- castle
/a/ 	a apple							/s/ 	ps pseudonym
/t/ 	t tent	-tt letter	-ed skipped	-bt debt	pt pterodactyl				
/i/ 	i insect	-y cymbals							








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








<p>/r/</p> 	<p>r</p> <p>rat</p>	<p>-rr</p> <p>arrow</p>	<p>wr</p> <p>write</p>	<p>rh</p> <p>rhinoceros</p>				
<p>/m/</p> 	<p>m</p> <p>map</p>	<p>-mm</p> <p>hammer</p>	<p>-mb</p> <p>thumb</p>	<p>-mn</p> <p>column</p>	<p>-me</p> <p>welcome</p>			
<p>/d/</p> 	<p>d</p> <p>dig</p>	<p>-dd</p> <p>puddle</p>	<p>-ed</p> <p>rained</p>					
<p>/g/</p> 	<p>g</p> <p>girl</p>	<p>-gg</p> <p>juggle</p>	<p>gu</p> <p>guitar</p>	<p>gh</p> <p>ghost</p>	<p>-gue</p> <p>catalogue</p>			
<p>/o/</p> 	<p>o</p> <p>octopus</p>	<p>wa</p> <p>watch</p>	<p>qua</p> <p>qualify</p>	<p>alt</p> <p>salt</p>				




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





<p>/j/</p> 	<p>j</p> <p>jug</p>	<p>-ge</p> <p>cabbage</p>	<p>g^e gⁱ g^y</p> <p>gerbil giraffe gymnast</p>	<p>-dge</p> <p>fridge</p>				
<p>/y/</p> 	<p>y</p> <p>yawn</p>							
<p>/ai/</p> 	<p>ai</p> <p>aid</p>	<p>ay</p> <p>tray</p>	<p>a</p> <p>table</p>	<p>-ae</p> <p>sundae</p>	<p>a-e</p> <p>cakes</p>	<p>-ey</p> <p>prey</p>	<p>eigh</p> <p>eight</p>	<p>-ea</p> <p>break</p>
<p>/w/</p> 	<p>w</p> <p>web</p>	<p>wh</p> <p>wheel</p>	<p>-u</p> <p>penguin</p>			<p>/ai/</p> 	<p>-aigh</p> <p>straight</p>	
<p>/oa/</p> 	<p>oa</p> <p>oak</p>	<p>ow</p> <p>bow</p>	<p>o</p> <p>yo-yo</p>	<p>-oe</p> <p>oboe</p>	<p>o-e</p> <p>rope</p>	<p>-ough</p> <p>dough</p>		<p>-eau</p> <p>plateau</p>

<p>/igh/</p> 	<p>-igh night</p>	<p>-ie tie</p>	<p>i behind</p>	<p>-y shy</p>	<p>i-e bike</p>	<p>ei eider</p>	<p>eye eye</p>	
<p>/ee/</p> 	<p>ee eel</p>	<p>ea eat</p>	<p>e emu</p>	<p>* -y * sunny</p>	<p>e-e concrete</p>	<p>-ey key *monkey</p>	<p>-ie chief *movie</p>	<p>-ine sardines</p>
<p>/or/</p>  <p>or/aw/</p>  <p>dependent on regional and national accents</p>	<p>or fork</p>	<p>oar oars</p>	<p>-oor door</p>	<p>ore snore</p>	<p>-our four</p>	<p>war wardrobe</p>	<p>quar quarter</p>	<p>wa water</p>
<p>/z/</p> 	<p>z zebra</p>	<p>-zz jazz</p>	<p>-s fries</p>	<p>-se cheese</p>	<p>-ze breeze</p>			

<p>/ng/</p> 	<p>-ng</p> <p>gong</p>	<p>-n</p> <p>jungle</p>				<p>/ngk/</p> 	<p>-nk</p> <p>ink</p>	<p>-nc</p> <p>uncle</p>
<p>/v/</p> 	<p>v</p> <p>violin</p>	<p>-ve</p> <p>dove</p>						
<p>short</p> <p>/oo/</p> 	<p>oo</p> <p>book</p>	<p>-oul</p> <p>should</p>	<p>-u</p> <p>push</p>					
<p>long</p>  <p>/oo/</p>	<p>oo</p> <p>moon</p>	<p>-ue</p> <p>blue</p>	<p>u-e</p> <p>flute</p>	<p>-ew</p> <p>crew</p>	<p>-ui</p> <p>fruit</p>	<p>-ou</p> <p>soup</p>	<p>-o</p> <p>move</p>	<p>-ough</p> <p>through</p>
<p>/ks/</p> 	<p>-x</p> <p>fox</p>	<p>-ks</p> <p>books</p>	<p>-cks</p> <p>ducks</p>	<p>-kes</p> <p>cakes</p>		<p>/gz/</p> 	<p>-gs</p> <p>pegs</p>	<p>-x</p> <p>exam</p>

<p>/ch/</p> 	<p>ch</p> <p>chairs</p>	<p>-tch</p> <p>patch</p>					<p>/chu/</p> 	<p>-ture</p> <p>picture</p>
<p>/sh/</p> 	<p>sh</p> <p>sheep</p>	<p>ch</p> <p>chef</p>	<p>-ti</p> <p>station</p>	<p>-ci</p> <p>magician</p>	<p>-ssi</p> <p>admission</p>			
<p>unvoiced /th/</p> 	<p>th</p> <p>thistle</p>		<p>voiced /th/</p> 	<p>th</p> <p>there</p>				
<p>/kw/</p> 	<p>qu</p> <p>queen</p>							
<p>/ou/</p> 	<p>ou</p> <p>ouch</p>	<p>ow</p> <p>owl</p>	<p>-ough</p> <p>plough</p>					

<p>/oi/</p> 	<p>oi</p> <p>ointment</p>	<p>oy</p> <p>toy</p>						
<p>/yoo/</p> 	<p>-ue</p> <p>statue</p>	<p>u</p> <p>unicorn</p>	<p>u-e</p> <p>tube</p>	<p>ew</p> <p>new</p>	<p>eu</p> <p>deuce</p>			
<p>/er/</p> 	<p>er</p> <p>mermaid</p>	<p>ir</p> <p>birthday</p>	<p>ur</p> <p>nurse</p>	<p>ear</p> <p>earth</p>	<p>wor</p> <p>world</p>			
<p>schwa/er/ or /u/</p> 	<p>-er</p> <p>mixer</p>	<p>-our</p> <p>humour</p>	<p>-re</p> <p>theate</p>	<p>-ar</p> <p>collar</p>	<p>-or</p> <p>sailor</p>			
<p>/ar/</p> 	<p>ar</p> <p>artist</p>	<p>-a</p> <p>father</p>	<p>alm</p> <p>palm</p>	<p>-alf</p> <p>half</p>	<p>-alv</p> <p>calves</p>			

/air/ 	air hair	-are hare	-ear bear	-ere where			This chart is not definitive. You may discover further code – add this to the chart and/or main display wall.
/eer/ 	eer deer	ear ears	-ere adhere	-ier cashier			Hollow letters alert the reader to various possible pronunciations.
/zh/ 	-si television	-s treasure	-z azure	-g courgette	-ge collage		 by Debbie Hepplewhite

*-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/ **though**, /or/ **thought**, /oo/ **through**, /ou/ **plough**, /u/ **thorough**

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

units 1-5	Simple code with some spelling alternatives	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th		
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).