

Short and Long Vowels

Short Vowels

1. If a word or syllable has only one vowel and it comes at the beginning of a word, the vowel is usually short.

These are called VC words.

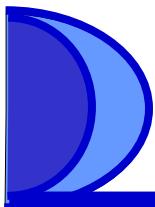
e.g. *an, ant, end, in, up, on, ox*

2. If a word or syllable has only one vowel and it comes between two consonants, the vowel is usually short.

These are called CVC words.

Examples:

- short a (ă) pronounced /æ/ as in *fast, bat, cap, rack, hand*
- short e (ě) pronounced /ɛ/ as in *jet, men, web, tent, belt*
- short i (ĩ) pronounced /ɪ/ as in *sit, mitt, milk, lips, sink*
- short o (õ) pronounced /ɒ/ as in *pop, box, lock, hot, rock*
- short u (ũ), pronounced /ʌ/ as in *run, lunch, bus, duck, tub*



Short and Long Vowels

Long Vowels

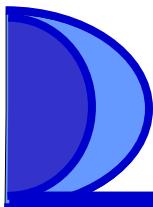
1. When the vowel “says its name” the alphabet sounds are called “long vowels”.

We call them 'long' because we hold them longer than short sounds but they are completely different sounds – not a longer version of the same sound.

Examples:

- long a (ā) pronounced /eɪ/ as in *ate, tape, mate, same, snake*
- long e (ē) pronounced /i:/ as in *eat, Pete, jean, meat* (or *meet or mete* – all pronounced the same),
- long i (ī) pronounced /aɪ/ as in *might, file, site, nine, ride*
- long o (ō) pronounced /oʊ/ as in *oats, mote, joke, pope*
- long u (ū) pronounced /ju:/ in *mute, cute, fuse, rude*

2. When a syllable ends in a silent /el/, the silent /el/ is a signal that the vowel in front of it is long.



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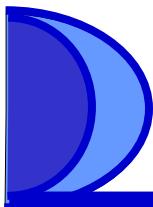
This is often called the magic e or the bossy e.

e.g. *make, late, kite, rope, use*

ACTIVITY!

A. Which one doesn't belong? Circle the word that is pronounced with a different vowel sound.

- | | | | |
|----------|------|-------|------|
| 1. no | go | do | so |
| 2. war | car | bar | far |
| 3. does | goes | foes | toes |
| 4. phone | bone | gone | cone |
| 5. fork | work | stork | cork |
| 6. dear | bear | wear | pear |
| 7. food | book | foot | good |
| 8. sew | new | few | knew |
| 9. five | dive | give | hive |
| 10. rose | pose | nose | lose |



Short and Long Vowels

11. sweat	heat	meat	eat
12. rain	train	again	pain
13. cough	rough	tough	enough
14. clown	flown	town	down
15. plays	days	stays	says

B. Find things in your room that have short and long vowel sound.

Short

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Long

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____