

List of Phonemes or Sounds in English

A phoneme is the technical name for a single sound in a language.

In this video, I'm going to list for you all the individual sounds in English. I've listed 47 sounds in this video; one is really 2 sounds joined together – so that means that there are really up to 46 sounds in English.

While we're talking about English in this video, we have to understand that there are several different major types of English: African English, Asian English, Caribbean English, Central and South American English, and European, North American, and United Kingdom English. And each of those major types of English includes several sub-types of English, each spoken slightly differently.

Each type of English uses most of the English sounds or phonemes, and ignores some of the others. I'll include all the sounds in English, and you can ignore the sounds you don't use.

[The letter in between the slash marks means I'm talking about the sound, not the name of the letter. I'll bold the letters that are showing that sound in the picture name.]

As we work through these sounds, you'll find it easiest if you just repeat what I say as I:

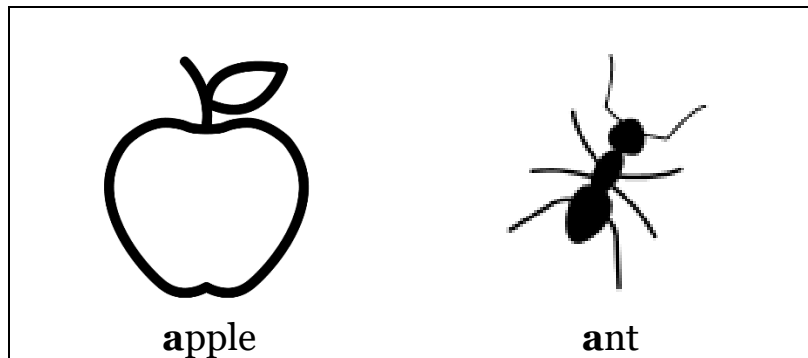
- say a sound; and
- say the names of the pictures on the slides.

This video will also help you pronounce the sounds correctly. The quiet sounds can be especially difficult to say on their own.

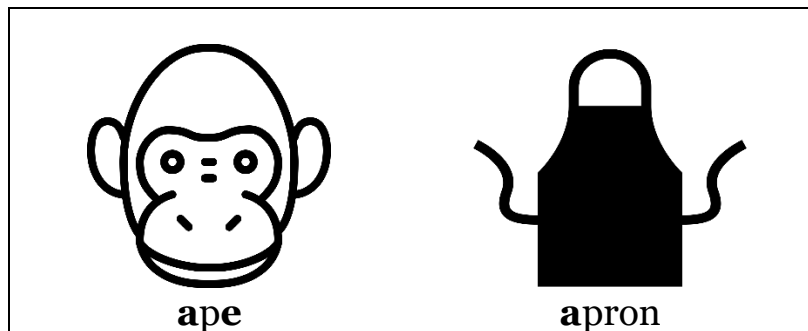
There is a PDF available, that includes all these pictures. There's a link below this video, where you can access it.

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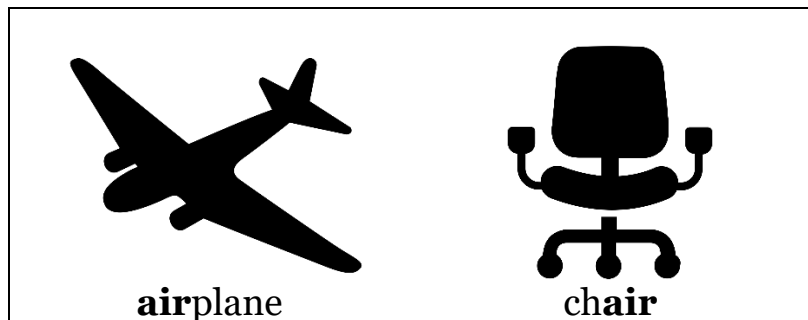
Sound
/a/



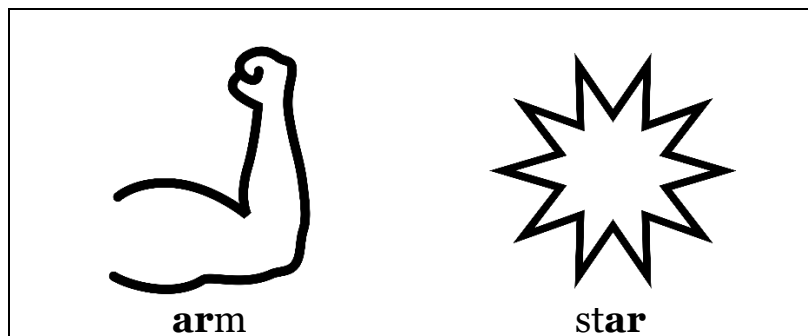
Sound
/ae/



Sound
/air/

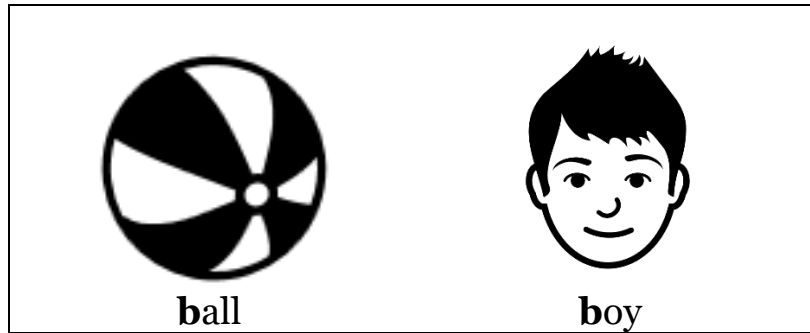


Sound
/ar/

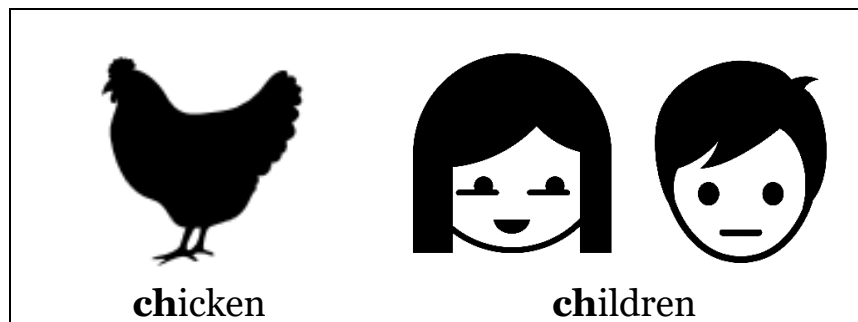


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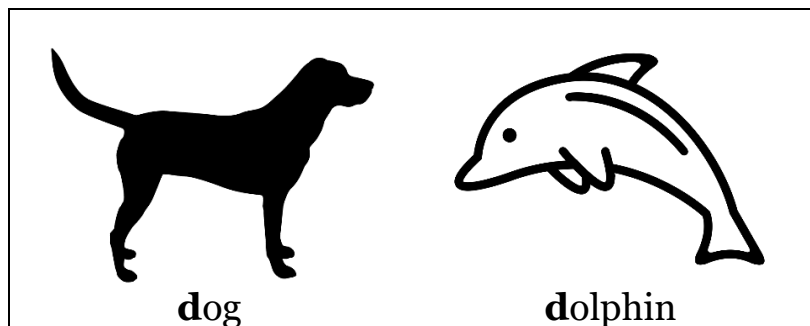
Sound
/b/



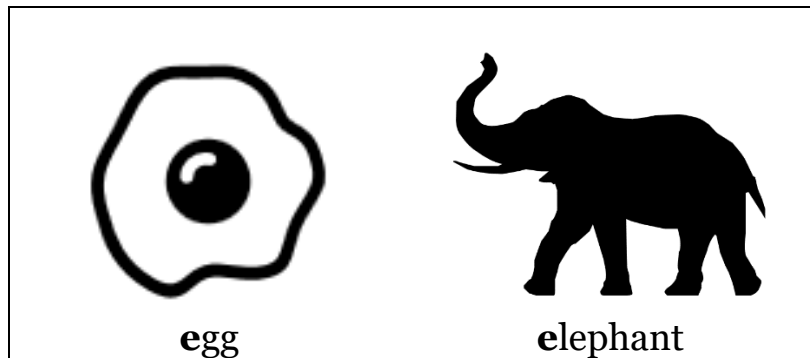
Sound
/ch/



Sound
/d/

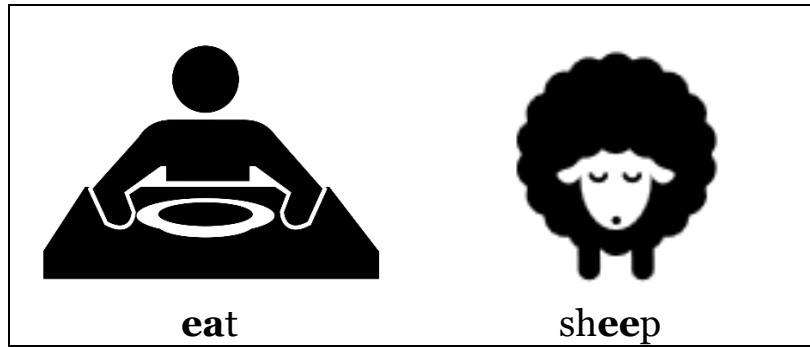


Sound
/e/

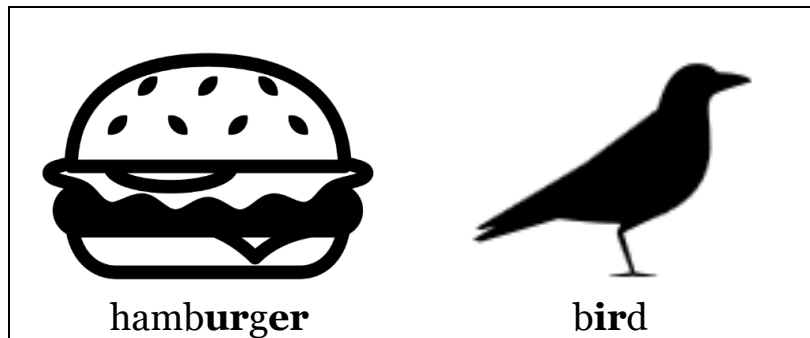


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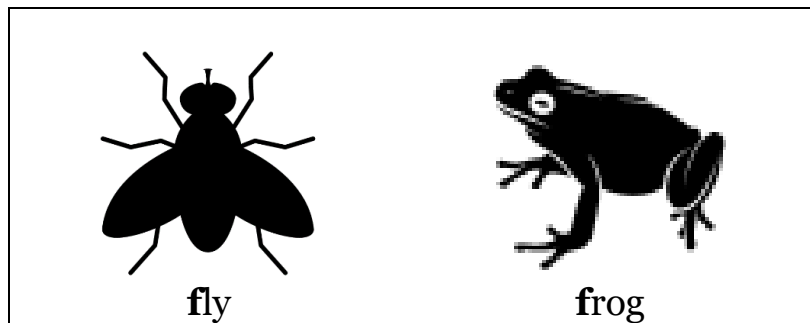
Sound
/ee/



Sound
/er/



Sound
/f/

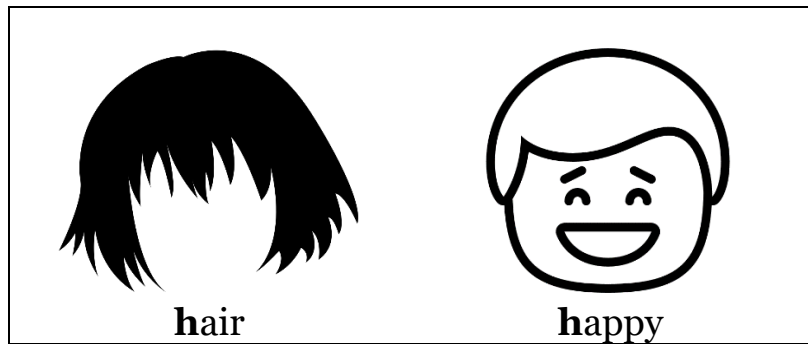


Sound
/g/

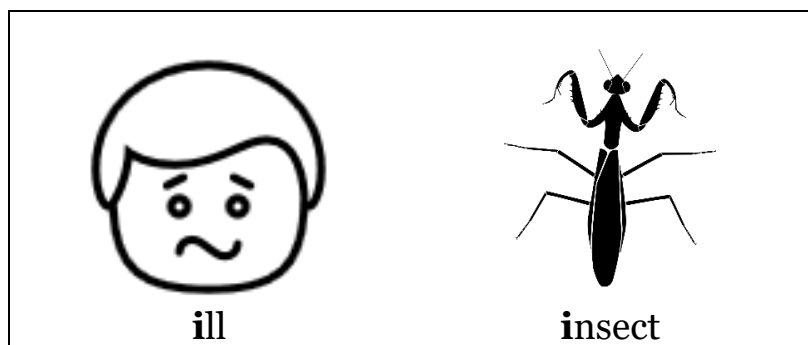


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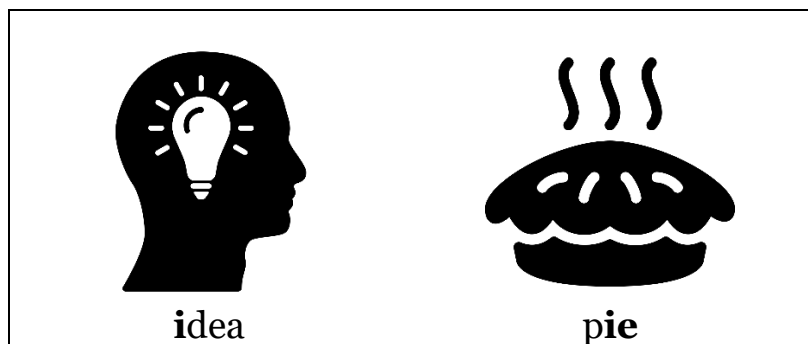
Sound
/h/



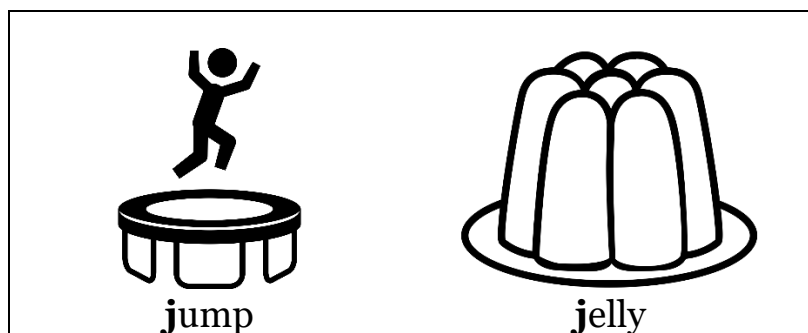
Sound
/i/



Sound
/ie/

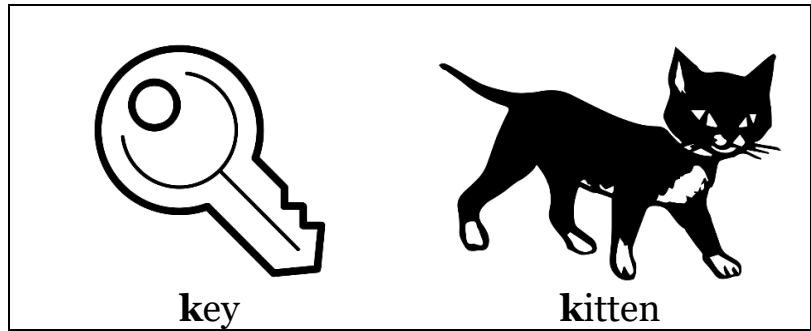


Sound
/j/

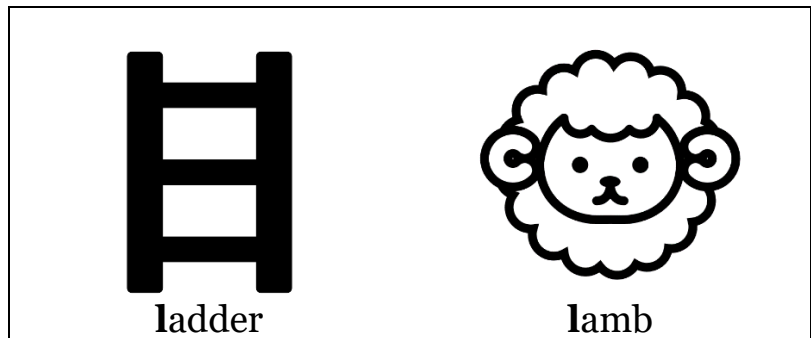


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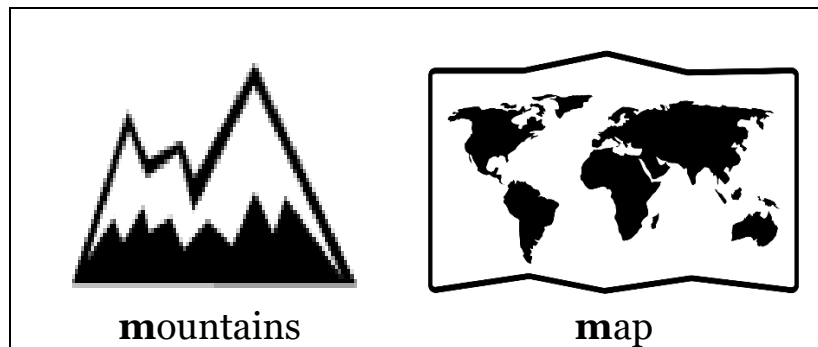
Sound
/k/



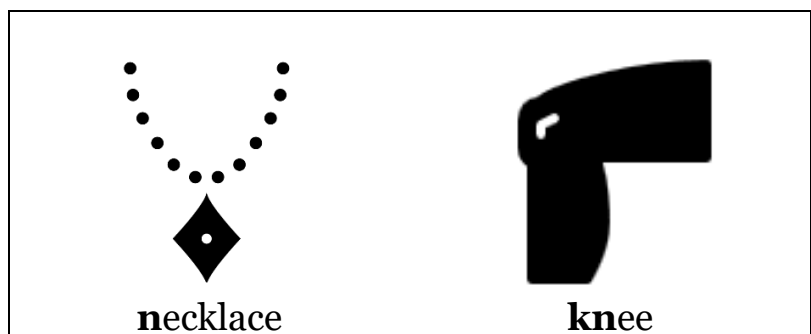
Sound
/l/



Sound
/m/

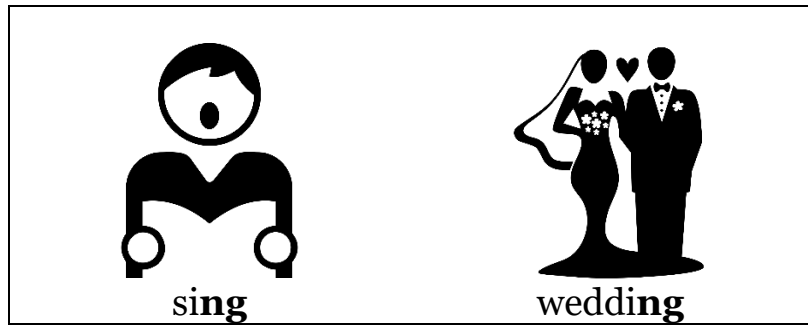


Sound
/n/



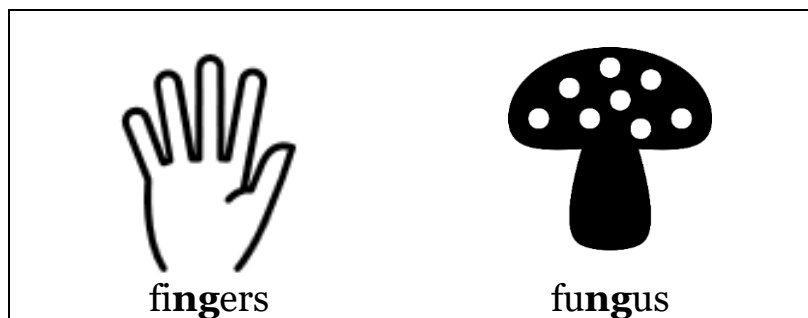
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Sound
/ng/



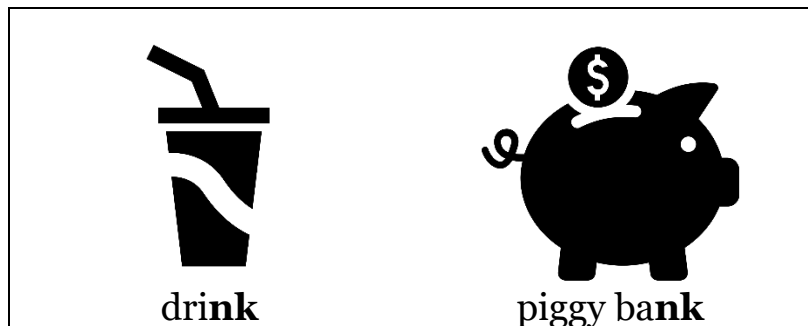
Sound
/ng g/

In some types of English
all words spelled with ng
are pronounced as /ng g/.

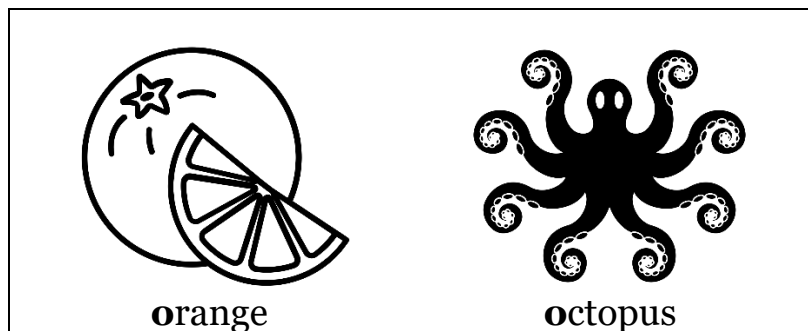


Sound
/ngk/

(Optional sound, but it's
useful for students to be
able to hear this sound
made up of /ng/ and /k/.)

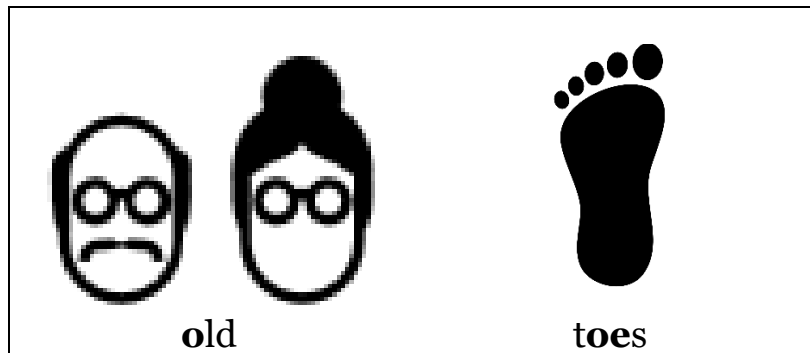


Sound
/o/

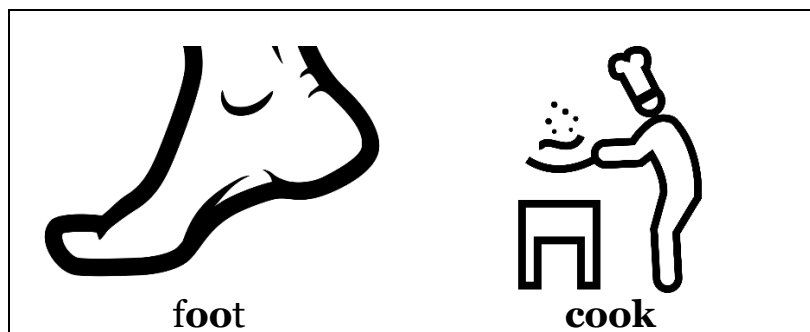


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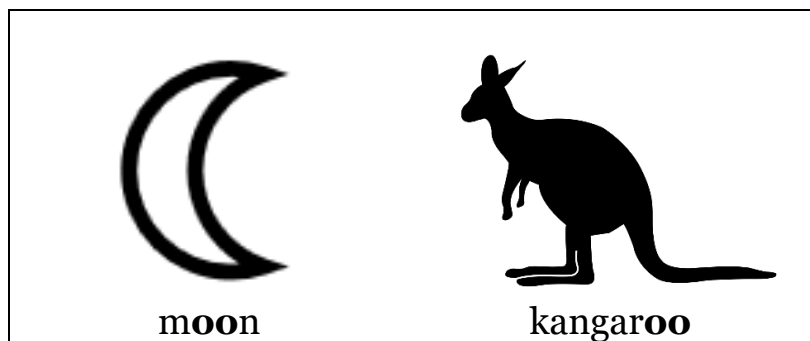
Sound
/oe/



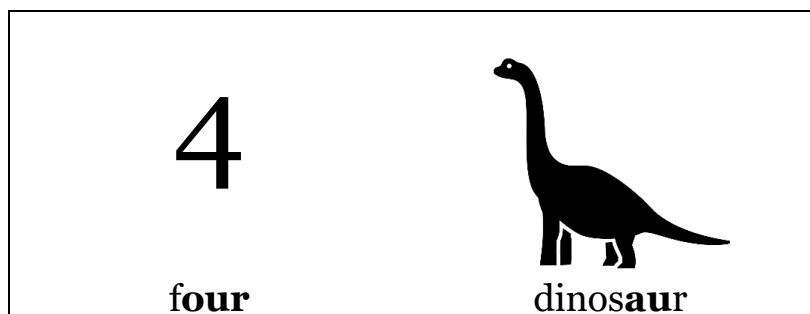
Sound
/oo/



Sound
/oo/

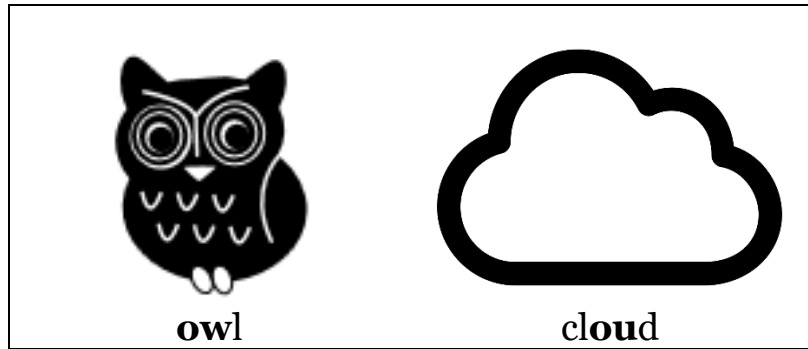


Sound
/or/

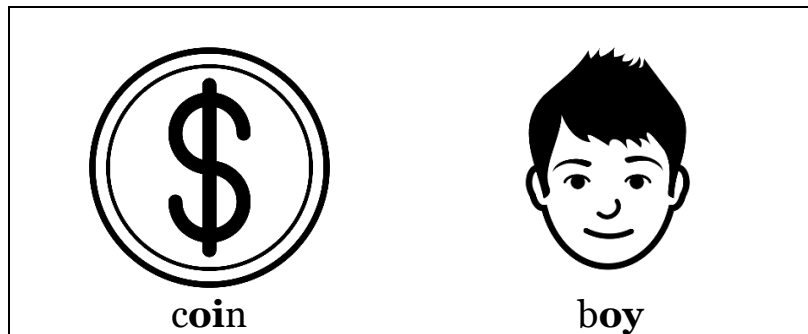


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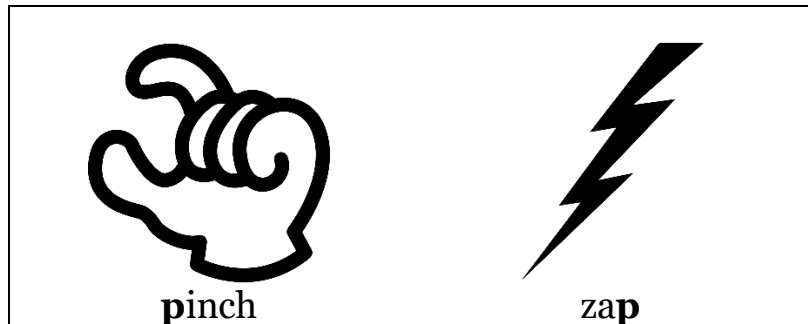
Sound
/ow/



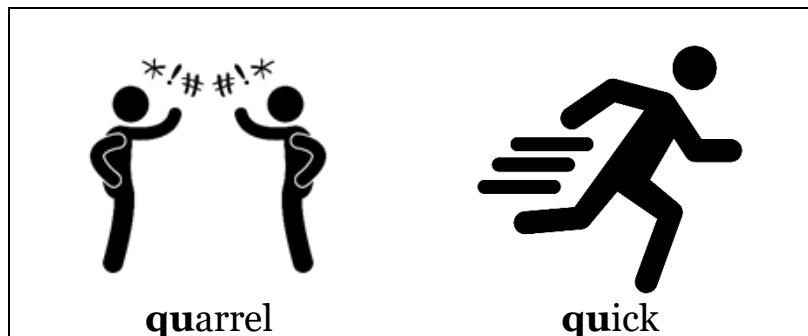
Sound
/oy/



Sound
/p/

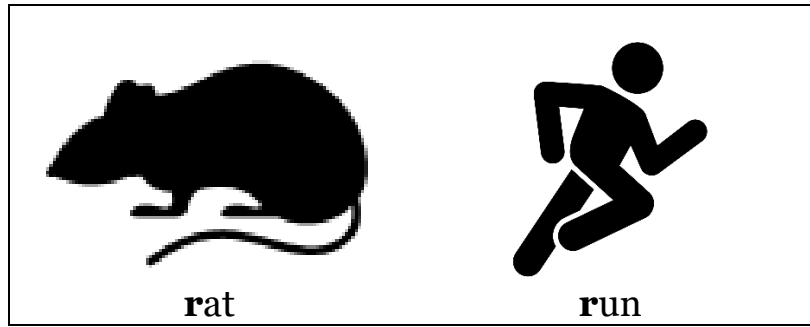


Sound
/qu/ (kw)

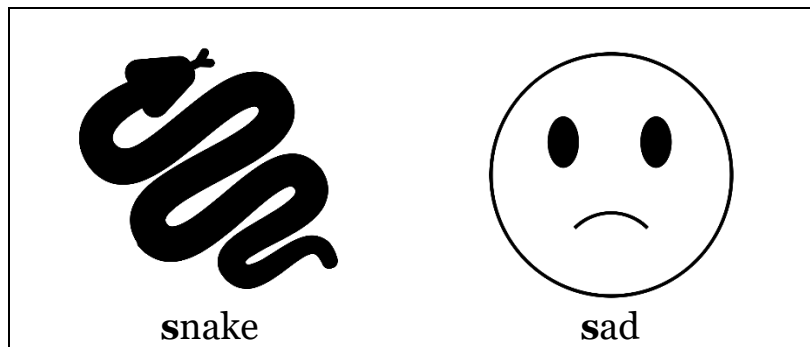


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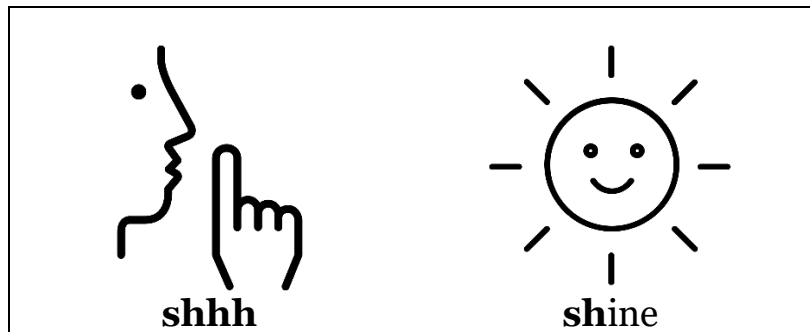
Sound
/r/



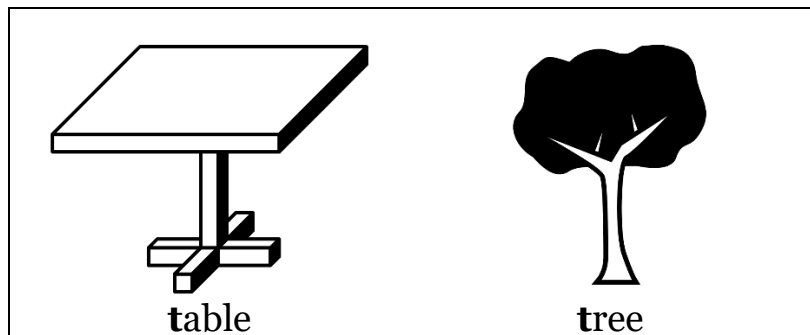
Sound
/s/



Sound
/sh/

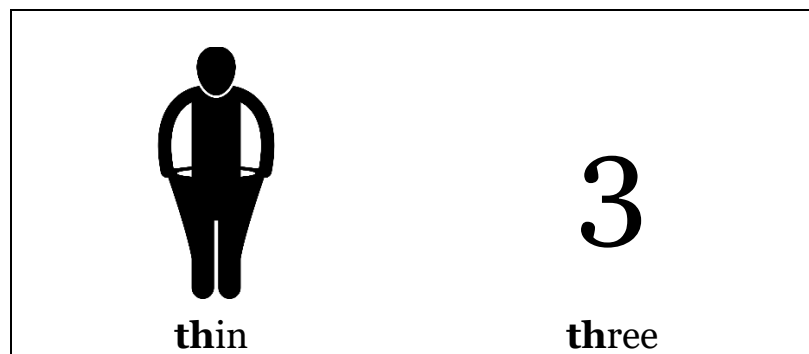


Sound
/t/

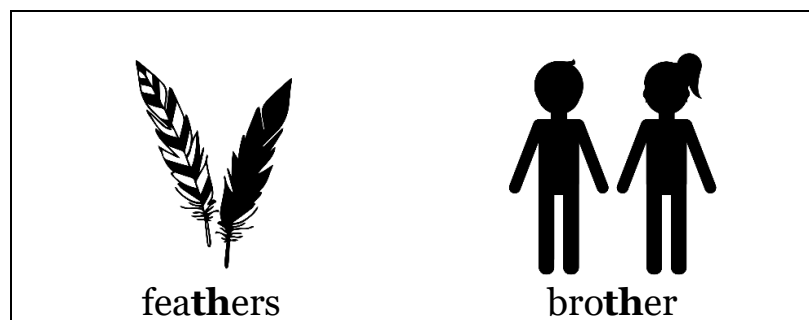


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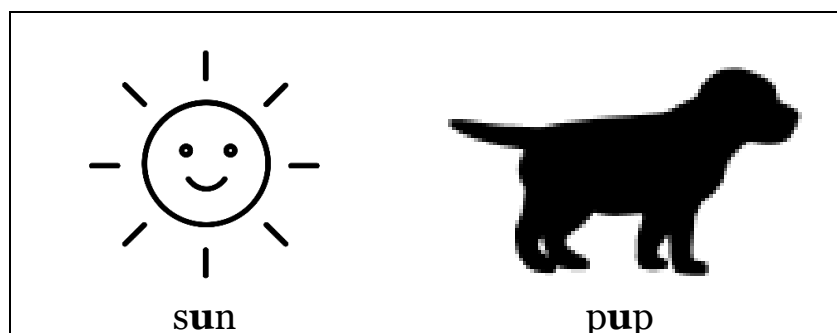
Sound
/th/



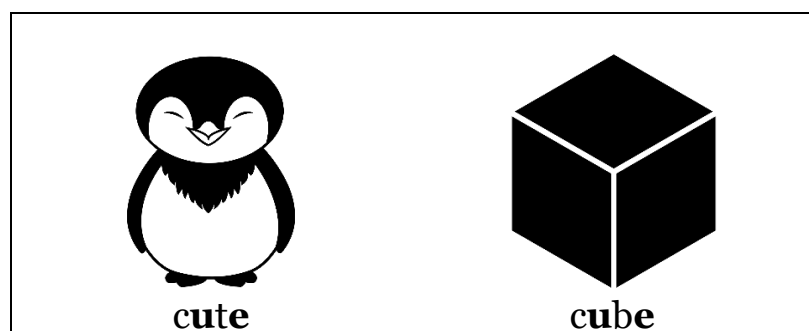
Sound
/th/



Sound
/u/

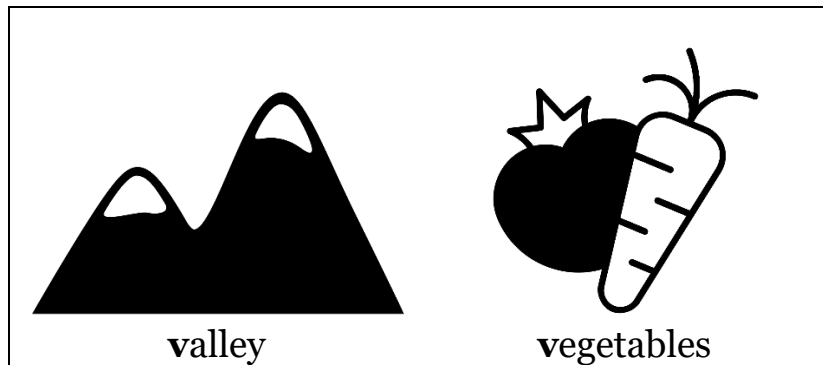


Sound
/ue/

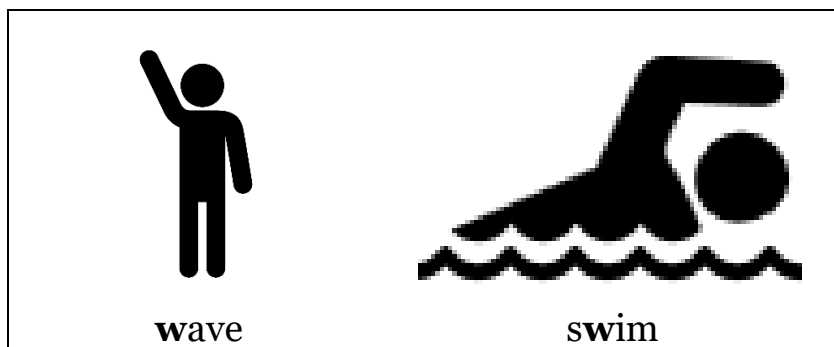


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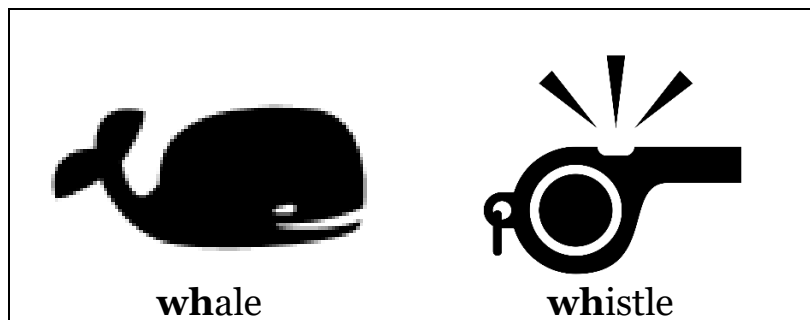
Sound
/v/



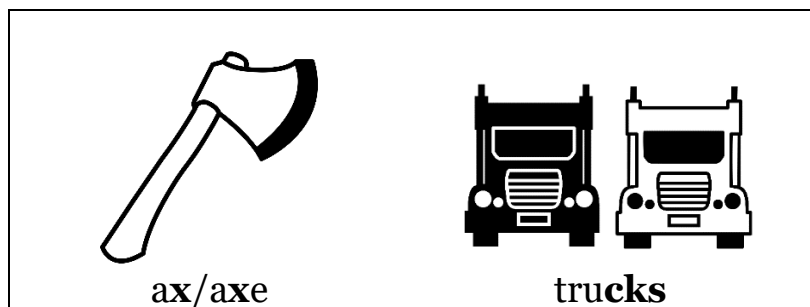
Sound
/w/



Sound
/wh/ (hw)

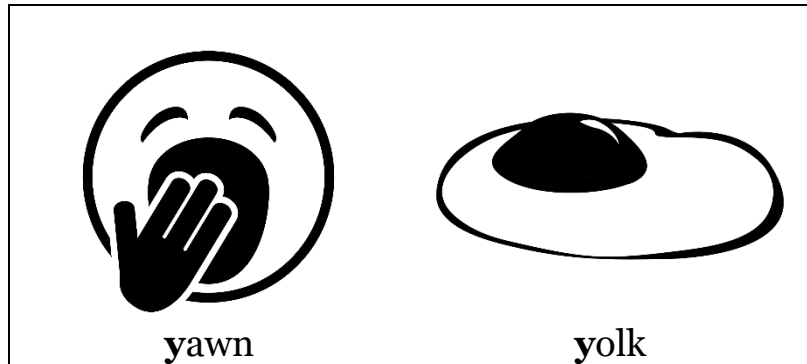


Sound
/x/ (ks)

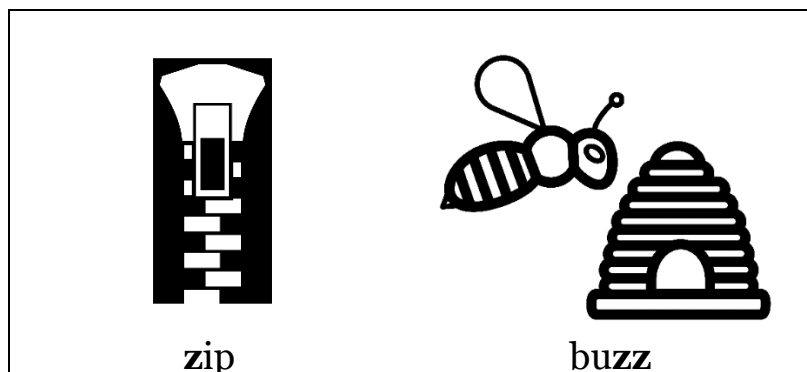


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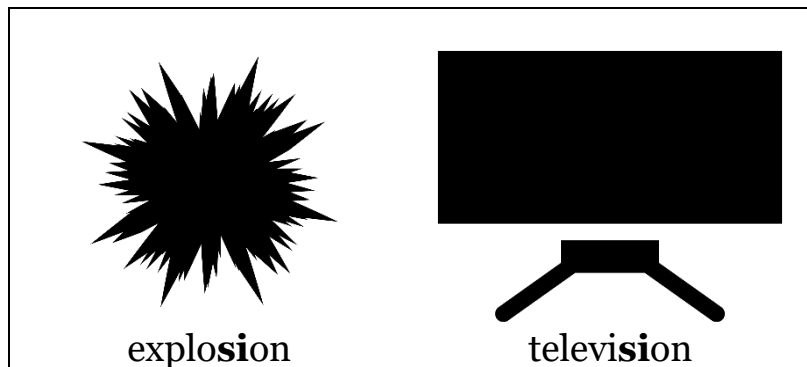
Sound
/y/



Sound
/z/



Sound
/zh/



*There is no common way to write this sound (**ge**, **s**, **si**, and **su**) e.g.: **Asia**, **amnesia**, **casual**, **closure**, **conclusion**, **corsage**, **measure**, **mirage**, **persuasion**, **pleasure**, **treasure**, **usual**, **vision**, and **visual**.

If you would someone else to teach your child phonemic awareness, go to my website to learn more about my video-based Phonemic Awareness Course – where I teach the essential phonemic awareness skills in less than 3 hours.