

Spelling Guide

1. Short and long vowel sounds
Use the short sound unless the long sound is indicated.

a	hat	ā	bay
e	bed	ē	bee
i	big	ī	light
o	log	ō	rope
u	sun	ū	tune

- 2 Stressed syllables are indicated by italicized letters in Levels 5 and above.

bē gun

- 3 The Schwa ə

This symbol designates an unstressed “uh” sound.
A short u is used if the syllable is stressed.

hum bəg humbug hum³ bug³

Both have the same sound, but the short u is stressed and the schwa is not stressed.

- 4 Open and closed syllables

A syllable with a short vowel sound is usually closed by a consonant at the end.

A syllable with a long vowel sound is usually open with the vowel at the end of the syllable.

tā bl	table	ta² ble³
ta blit	tablet	tab³ let³

In the word “tablet,” the “b” is usually pronounced with the second syllable and not the first. However, since the “a” is a short vowel sound, it is closed with the “b” at the end of the syllable. Attention to this rule will assist in learning the spellings of many larger words.

- 5 Differences in pronunciations and number of syllables

An asterisk* will indicate words whose spelling differs significantly from the number of syllables commonly spoken.

chok o lāt*	chocolate	choc⁴ o¹ late⁴
dif fer int*	different	dif³ fer³ ent³

The student is encouraged to learn the different pronunciation in order to assist in spelling these irregular words.

- 6 Blended syllables

Some syllables that are pronounced as only one syllable may be written as two syllables in the third column when it is logical for spelling. In these cases, the space between the syllables is removed.

trapt	trapped	trap⁴ped³
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SYLLABLE SAVVY SPELLING FOUR

Lesson 1

1. mont gum er ē	Montgomery	Mont ⁴ gom ³ er ² y ¹
2. al ə bam ə	Alabama	Al ² a ¹ bam ³ a ¹
3. jan yū âr ē	January	Jan ³ u ¹ ar ² y ¹
4. feb rū âr ē*	February	Feb ³ ru ² ar ² y ¹
5. märch	March	March ⁵
6. ā prəl	April	A ¹ pril ⁴
7. mā	May	May ³
8. jūn	June	June ⁴
9. jə lī	July	Ju ² ly ²
10. o gəst	August	Au ² gust ⁴
11. sep tem ber	September	Sep ³ tem ³ ber ³
12. ok tō ber	October	Oc ² to ² ber ³
13. nō vem ber	November	No ² vem ³ ber ³
14. dē sem ber	December	De ² cem ³ ber ³
15. munth lē	monthly	month ⁵ ly ²
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

ā âr är er ē ēr ī ō ö ôr ow oy ū zh ə
day air far her bee tear light rope book for cow boy tune vision item