

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 EIGHT

Lesson 1

1. <i>gu</i> vern	govern	gov ³ ern ³
2. <i>gu</i> ver mint	government	gov ³ ern ³ ment ⁴
3. <i>si</i> di zin	citizen	ci ² ti ² zen ³
4. <i>op</i> ti ml	optimal	op ² ti ² mal ³
5. <i>op</i> ti kl	optical	op ² ti ² cal ³
6. <i>rē tal</i> ē āte	retaliate	re ² tal ³ i ¹ ate ³
7. <i>vin</i> di kāt	vindicate	vin ³ di ² cate ⁴
8. <i>sū</i> per <i>fi</i> shəl	superficial	su ² per ³ fi ² cial ⁴
9. <i>pār</i> shəl	partial	par ³ tial ⁴
10. <i>pār</i> shə lē	partially	par ³ tial ⁴ ly ²
11. per <i>pe</i> chū āt	perpetuate	per ³ pet ³ u ¹ ate ³
12. <i>jēn</i> yus	genius	gen ³ ius ³
13. <i>a</i> nə liz	analyze	a ¹ na ² lyze ⁴
14. <i>ek</i> stə sē	ecstasy	ec ² sta ³ sy ²
15. <i>rē luk</i> tənt	reluctant	re ² luc ³ tant ⁴
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		