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## Spellings for the English Consonant Phonemes

### For /p/:

**p:** pen [p<sup>h</sup>eɪn], apologize [ə'p<sup>h</sup>ɒ'lə,dʒaɪz], shop [ʃɒp].

**pp:** appple ['æpəl], stoppped [stɒpt], suppper ['sʌpər], happen ['hæpən].

**-pe:** cope [k<sup>h</sup>oʊp], hope [hoʊp], pipe [p<sup>h</sup>aɪp].

**-gh:** hicough ['hɪkʌp].

### For /b/:

**b:** bag [bæɡ], aboard [ə'bɔ:rd], clb [kʌ'b].

**bb:** babbble ['bæ'bəl], rubber ['rʌ'bər], ribbon ['rɪ'bən].

**-be:** tribe [tɹaɪb], tube [t<sup>h</sup>u:b].

### For /t/:

**t:** attypical [eɪ'tɪpəkəl], take [t<sup>h</sup>erk], time [t<sup>h</sup>aɪm].

**tt:** butter ['bʌ'rər] (or ['bʌtər]), fatter ['fæ'rər] (or ['fætər]), latter ['læ'rər] (or ['lætər]), matter ['mæ'rər] (or ['mætər]), Patty ['p<sup>h</sup>æ'ri] (or ['p<sup>h</sup>æti]).

**-te:** date [dert], kite [k<sup>h</sup>art], mate [mert].

**th:** Anthony ['æntəni], Estther ['estər], Estthonia [es't<sup>h</sup>oʊniə], Thames [t<sup>h</sup>e'mz], Thomas [t<sup>h</sup>ɑ:məs], Thompson [t<sup>h</sup>ɑ:msən], thyne [t<sup>h</sup>aɪm].

**-bt:** debt [det], dobt [dɔ:t], dobted [dɔ:ɪd] (or [dɔ:tɪd]), indebted [ɪn'de:ɪd] (or [ɪn'detɪd]).

**-pt:** pptarmigan [t<sup>h</sup>ɑ:ɪmægən], rept [rɪ'sɪt].

**-ght:** daghter ['dɔ:rər] (or ['dɔ:tər]), heght [hart], naght [nɒt], thought [θɒt].

**-ed:** cooked [ˈʊkt], fixed [fɪkst], passed [pʰæst].

**For /d/:**

**d:** adore [əˈdɔːr], day [deɪ], sad [sæd].

**dd:** Daddy [ˈdæːri] (or [ˈdæːdi]), madden [ˈmædɪn], paddy [ˈpʰæːri] (or [ˈpʰæːdi]).

**-de:** decide [dɪˈsaɪd], made [meɪd], nude [nuːd].

**-ed:** begged [ˈbeɡd], breathed [ˈbriːðd], changed [tʃeɪndʒd], determined [dɪˈtɜːrmənd],  
robbed [rɒbd], used [juːzd].

**For /k/:**

**k:** book [bʊk], kind [kʰaɪnd], Nike [ˈnaɪki], talk [tʰɔk].

**-ke:** lake [leɪk], make [meɪk], take [teɪk].

**kh:** (Not very common) khaki [ˈkʰæki], khan [kʰɑːn], Khartoum [ˈkʰɑːrɪˈtʰuːm].

**c:** (usually before **a, o, u** and word-finally) cable [ˈkʰeɪbəl], comic [ˈkʰɑːmɪk], cut [kʰʌt],  
panic [ˈpʰæːnɪk], skeptic [ˈskeptɪk].

**-cc-:** accompany [əˈkʰʌmpəni], accord [əˈkʰɔːrd], soccer [ˈsɔkər].

**-ck:** back [bæk], lack [læk], licking [ˈlɪkɪŋ].

**ch:** chameleon [kəˈmiːliən], chaotic [kʰeɪˈɔːtɪk], character [ˈkʰærəktər], chemistry [ˈkʰemɪstri],  
chi [kʰaɪ], choir [ˈkʰwaɪər], Christ [kɹɪst], Christian [ˈkɹɪstjən], Christmas [ˈkɹɪsməs],  
schedule [ˈskeɪdʒʊl] (AmE), school [skuːl], stomach [ˈstʌmək].

**-che:** ache [eɪk], headache [ˈheɪdeɪk] (or [ˈheddeɪk]), toothache [ˈtuːθeɪk].

**cq:** acquaint [əˈkwæɪnt], acquire [əˈkwæɪər], acquisition [ækwɪˈzɪʃn], acquit [əˈkwɪt].

**-cqu:** lacquer [ˈlækər].

**q:** quick [kwɪk], quiet [ˈkwaɪət], quite [kwaɪt], conquest (n.) [ˈkɒŋkwɛst].

**qu:** bouquet [ˈbuːkweɪ], conquer [ˈkɒŋkər], liquor [ˈlɪkər], quay [kweɪ].

**-que:** oblique [əˈbliːk], pique [ˈpiːk], plaque [ˈplæɪk], technique [ˈtekniːk], unique [juːˈniːk].

**x** [= ks] exit ['eksɪt], taxi ['tʰæksi], text [tʰekst].

**For /g/:**

**g:** agree [ə'gri:], ago [ə'gou], big [bɪ'g], dog [dɒ'g], game [gɛɪm].

**-gg-:** beggar ['bɛ'gər], begged [bɛ'gd], bigger ['bɪ'gər].

**gh:** ghast [gʰæst], ghetto [gʰe'rou], ghost [gʰoust].

**gu:** guard [gʰɑ:rd], guardian [gʰɑ:rdiən], guess [gʰes], guest [gʰest].

**-gue:** catalogue ['kʰæ'rəlbɔ'g], colleague ['kʰɑ:lɪ:g], epilogue ['epəlbɔ'g], league [li:g].

**x** [= gz]: exactly [ɪg'zæktli], examination [ɪg,zæ'məneɪʃn], exaggerate [ɪg'zæ'dʒərərt],  
example [ɪg'zæmpəl], exhaust [ɪg'zɔst].

**For /f/:**

**f:** found [faʊnd], sofa ['soufə], leaf [li:f], half [hæf].

**ff:** afford [ə'fɔ:rd], effort ['efərt], stuff [stʌf], off [ɒf].

**ph:** philosophy [fə'ləsəfi], photograph ['fouərə'græf], physician [fə'zɪʃn].

**-gh:** cough [kʰɒf], draught [dræft], enough [ɪnʌf], laugh [læf], laughter ['læftər], tough [tʰʌf].

**-fe:** knife [nɑ:f], life [lɑ:f], safe [sɜ:f], wife [wɑ:f].

**For /v/:**

**v:** cover [kʰʌ'vər], over ['oʊvər], envy ['envi], invite [ɪn'vaɪt], vary [vɛ'ri], visit ['vɪzɪt].

**f:** of [ɔ'v, ɒ'v, ʌ'v, əv]

**ph:** Stephen ['sti:vən]

**-ve:** dove [dɒ'v], love [lʌ'v], move [mu:v], receive [rɪ'si:v].

**-vv-:** (not very common) bovver ['bɒ'vər], navvy ['næ'vi], savvy ['sæ'vi], skivvy ['skrvi].

**For /θ/:**

**th:** enthrone [m'θ:roun], math [mæθ], method ['meθəɔd], think [θrɪŋk], thought [θɔt], thwart [θwɔ:rt], woth [wɔ:rθ]

**For /ð/:**

**th:** another [ə'nʌðər], mouthing ['maʊðɪŋ], neither ['ni:ðər] (AmE) ['naɪðə] (BrE), other [ʌ'ðər], rather ['ræðər] (AmE) ['rɑ:ðə] (BrE), smooth [smu:ð], tother [tə'geðər].  
**Note:** In word-initial position, **th** is pronounced /ð/ in the following words. Many of those words appear in modern English literature and the King James Bible: than [ðæn, ðən], that [ðæt, ðət], the [ði:, ði, ðə], thee [ði:], their [ðeər, ðər], theirs [ðeərz], they [ðeɪ], they're [ðeər], them [ðe'm, ðəm], themselves [ðəm'seɪvz], then [ðe'n], thence [ðe'ns], there [ðeər, ðər], thereabout [ðe'rə'baʊt], thereafter [ðe'ræftər], thereat [ðe'ræt], thereby [ðe'rbaɪ], therefor [ðe'rfɔ:r], therefore [ðe'rfɔ:r], therefrom [ðe'rfɹʌ'm], therein [ðe'rɪn], thereinafter [ðe'rɪn'æftər], thereof [ðe'rɔv], thereon [ðe'rɔn], thereto [ðe'r'thɪu:], thereunder [ðe'rʌ'ndər], thereupon [ðe'rəp'hʌn], therewith [ðe'rwiθ], therewithal [ðe'rwiðɔl], these [ði:z], thine [ðam], this [ðɪs], tho' [ðou], those [ðouz], thou [ðau], though [ðou], thus [ðʌs], thy [ðaɪ].

**-the:** bathe [beɪð], breathe [bri:ð], clothe [kloʊð].

**For /s/:**

**s:** isolate ['arsə,leɪt], soap [sou'p], soup [su'p], son [sʌ'n], sun [sʌ'n].

**sc:** science ['saɪəns], scientific [saɪən'tɪfɪk], scientist ['saɪəntɪst], scythe [saɪð], south [sauθ].

**-se:** cese [sɪ's], close (adj.) [kloʊs], decese [dɪ'si:s], fase [fɔ'z], hose [hɔ:rs], hose (n.) [haʊs], se (n.) [ju:s].

**ss:** essay ['eseɪ], lass [læs], miss [mɪs], passage [p'hæsɪdʒ].

**c:** (usually before 'e, i, y') cellar ['se'lər], city ['sɪri], cycle ['saɪkɪ], mercy ['mɜ:rsɪ], pencil [p'hensɪ], receipt [rɪ'sɪt].

**-ce:** chance [tʃæ'ns], France [fɹæ'ns], mince [mɪns], pierce [p'hɪərs], since [sɪns].

**ps:** psalm [sʌm], psychology [saɪ'kɒ'lədʒi], psyche [saɪki].

**x:** (pronounced /ks/) ax [æks], exit ['eksɪt], explain [ɪk'spleɪn].

**For /z/:**

**-es:** Charles [tʃɑːrltz], craves [kreɪvz], fines [faɪnz].

**s:** business [ˈbɪznɪs], closet [ˈklɒzɪt], closing [ˈkləʊzɪŋ], desert (n.) [ˈdeɪzərt], desert (v.) [dɪˈzɜːrt], easy [ˈiːzi], has [hæz, həz], is [ɪz], Thursday [ˈθɜːrzdɪ], Tuesday [ˈtʉuːzdeɪ], using [ˈjuːzɪŋ], was [wɒz, wɔːz, wʌz, wəz], Wednesday [ˈweɪnzdeɪ].

**-se:** close (v.) [kləʊz], confuse [kənˈfjuːz], please [pliːz], raise [reɪz], rise [raɪz], suppose [səˈpəʊz], surprise [səˈpraɪz], use (v.) [juːz].

**sc:** discern [dɪˈzɜːrn]

**ss:** dessert [dɪˈzɜːrt], dissolve [dɪˈzɒlv], possessive [pəˈzɛsɪv], scissors [ˈsɪzəz].

**z:** crazy [ˈkreɪzi], lazy [ˈleɪzi], razor [ˈreɪzə], zero [ˈzɪroʊ], zest [zɛst], zoo [zuː].

**-ze:** amaze [əˈmeɪz], analyze [ˈænəˌlaɪz], apologize [əˈpɒlədʒaɪz], realize [ˈrɪəˌlaɪz].

**zz:** buzzer [ˈbʌzə], dizzy [ˈdɪzi], fuzzy [ˈfʌzi].

**x:** (pronounced /gz/) exactly [ɪɡˈzæktli], exaggerate [ɪɡˈzædʒəreɪt], exam [ɪɡˈzæm], examination [ɪɡˈzæməneɪʃn], example [ɪɡˈzæmpəl], exempt [ɪɡˈzɛmpt].

**x:** (pronounced /z/) Xavier [ˈzeɪvɪər], xenophobia [ˌzɛnəˈfəʊbiə], Xerxes [ˈzɜːrksɪz], xylophone [ˈzaɪləfoʊn].

**For /f/:**

**ce:** ocean [ˈoʊʃn]

**ch:** charade [ˈʃəreɪd], Chevrolet [ˌʃevrəˈleɪ], machine [məˈʃiːn].

**-che:** microfiche [ˈmɪkrəʊˌfiːʃ], moustache [məˈstæʃ].

**ci:** (usually before **-al, -an, -ent, -er, -es, -ous**) ancient [ˈeɪnfənt], glacier [ˈɡlɪsɪər], musician [mjuˈzɪʃn], precious [ˈpreʃəs], spacial [ˈspeɪʃəl], species [ˈspiːʃɪz].

**s:** (before **‘u’**) ensure [ɪnˈʃʊər], insure [ɪnˈʃʊər], sensual [ˈsɛnʃuəl], sugar [ˈʃʊgər], sure [ʃʊər].

**sch:** schwa [ʃwɑː], schedule [ˈʃɛdjʊəl] (BrE).

**sci:** (usually before the endings **-ence, -ous**) conscience [ˈkɒnʃəns], conscious [ˈkɒnʃəs].

**se:** Sean [ʃɒn].

**sh:** ashore [ə'ʃɔ:r], ashtray [æ'ʃtɹɛɪ], shoe [ʃu:], wish [wɪʃ].

**si:** (after consonants and before the endings **-al**, **-on**) controversial [kʰɔ:tʃə'vɜ:rɪəl], expulsion [ɪk'spʌlʃɪn], mansion ['mæɪnʃɪn], version ['vɜ:rɪʃn].

**ss:** (before **-ure**) pressure ['pɹɛʃər], fissure ['fɪʃər].

**ssi:** (before **-on**) mission ['mɪʃn], passion [pʰæʃn], passionate [pʰæʃənɪt], permission [pə'r'mɪʃn].

**ti:** (usually before the suffixes **-al**, **-an**, **-ence**, **-ent**, **-ous**, **-on**) Aleutian [ə'lʊʃn], conscientious [kʰɔ:nʃɪ'eɪnʃəs], patience [pʰeɪʃəns], patient [pʰeɪʃənt], petition [pə'tɪʃn], position [pə'zɪʃn], potential [pə'teɪnʃəl].

**x:** (pronounced /kʃ/, before **'u'**) sexual ['sekʃuəl], sexuality [sekʃu'æləti].

**xi:** (pronounced /kʃ/, before **-al**, **-ous**) axial ['ækʃiəl], anxious ['æŋkʃəs].

### For /ʒ/:

**g:** genre [ʒɛnrə].

**-ge:** (in French loan-words) beige [beɪʒ], massage [mɑ'sɑ:ʒ], mirage [mɪ'rɑ:ʒ].

**s:** (after an accented vowel and before **-ual**, **-ure**) casual [kʰæʒuəl], leisure ['li:ʒər] (AmE) ['le:ʒə] (BrE), measure ['me:ʒər], occasion [ə'kʰeɪʒn], occasionally [ə'kʰeɪʒnəli], pleasure [p'le:ʒər], treasure ['tɹe:ʒər], usual ['ju:ʒuəl], usually ['ju:ʒuəli].

**si:** (after an accented vowel and before **-a**, **-an**, **-er**, **-on**) Asia ['eɪʒə], Asian ['eɪʒən], decision [d'ɹɪsɪʒən], hosier ['houʒər], lesion ['li:ʒən], precision [pɹɪ'sɪʒən], television [t'he:ləvɪʒən], vision ['vɪʒən].

**ti:** (before **-on**) equation [ɪ'kwɛɪʒən].

**z:** (before **-ure**) azure [æ'ʒər], seizure ['si:ʒər].

**zi:** (before **-er**) glazier [ˈɡleɪʒər].

### For /h/:

**h:** ahead [ə'fi'eɪd], forehead ['fɔ:r,fi'eɪd], heat [hi:t], house [haʊs] (n.).

**wh:** whom [hu:m], whole [hoʊl], whose [hu:z].

**For /tʃ/:**

**ch:** attaching [ət<sup>h</sup>ætʃɪŋ], church [tʃɜ:rtʃ].

**cz:** Czech [tʃek], Czechoslovakia [tʃekəsloʊvɑ:kɪə].

**t:** (preceded by a stressed vowel and followed by **-ural, -ure, -ual, -une**) actual [ˈæktʃuəl], actually [ˈæktʃuəli], fortune [ˈfɔ:rtʃən], fortunately [ˈfɔ:rtʃənɪtli], natural [ˈnætʃərəl], nature [ˈneɪtʃər].

**tch:** Tchaikovsky [tʃaɪˈkɔfski], watch [wɒtʃ].

**te:** righteous [ˈraɪtʃəs].

**ti:** (preceded by 's' and followed by **-ion, -ian, -ial**) celestial [səˈlestʃəl] (AmE) [səˈlestʃiəl] (BrE), Christian [ˈkɹɪstʃən], question [ˈkwɛstʃən].

**For /dʒ/:**

**ch:** (esp. in BrE) Norwich [ˈnɔ:rwɪdʒ].

**d:** (usually after a stressed vowel and before **-u** or **-uate**) education [ˌedʒəˈkeɪʃən], graduate (n. or adj.) [ˈɡrædʒuət], graduate (v.) [ˈɡrædʒu,ert], graduation [ˌɡrædʒuˈeɪʃən].

**-de-:** grandeur [ˈɡrændʒər].

**-dg-:** judging [ˈdʒɪdʒɪŋ], judgment [ˈdʒɪdʒmənt].

**-dge:** fudge [fʌˈdʒɪ], judge [ˈdʒɪdʒ].

**-di-:** soldier [ˈsɔ:ldʒər].

**-dj-:** adjective [ˈædʒɪktɪv], adjust [əˈdʒʌst].

**g:** (usually before 'e, i, y') engine [ˈendʒən], general [ˈdʒenərəl], gin [dʒɪn], gym [dʒɪm].  
**Exceptions:** gaol [dʒeɪl], margarine [ˈmɑ:rdʒərɪn].

**-gg-:** exaggerate [ɪɡˈzædʒəreɪt], suggest [səɡˈdʒest] (AmE) [səˈdʒest] (BrE).

**j:** ajar [əˈdʒɑ:ɹ], just [dʒʌst].

**For /m/:**

**-gm:** diaphragm [ˈdaɪəfɪəʃəm], paradigm [ˈpærədaɪm], phlegm [flɛm].

**m:** among [əˈmʌŋ], lemon [ˈleɪmən], mom [mɑːm], mother [ˈmʌðər], sum [sʌm].

**-mb:** bomb [bɔːm], bomber [ˈbɔːməɹ], bombing [ˈbɔːmɪŋ], climb [kɫaɪm], climber [ˈkɫaɪməɹ], climbing [ˈkɫaɪmɪŋ], comb [kʰoʊm], combing [kʰoʊmɪŋ], lamb [læm], limb [lɪm], numb [nʌm], plumber [ˈplʌməɹ], plumbing [ˈplʌmɪŋ], succumb [səkʰʌm].

**-mm-:** common [ˈkʰɑːmən], communication [kəˈmjʊːnəˈkeɪʃən], hammer [ˈhæməɹ], hammock [ˈhæmək], pummel [ˈpʰʌmf], recommend [ˈrekəˈmeɪnd], summing [ˈsʌmɪŋ], summon [ˈsʌmən].

**-me:** came [kʰeɪm], fame [feɪm], lame [leɪm], name [neɪm], same [seɪm], some [sʌm].

**-mn:** aumn [ˈɒrəm] (AmE) [ˈɔːtəm] (BrE), condemn [kændəˈm], condemning [kənˈdeɪmɪŋ].

**-lm:** alms [ɑːmz], balm [bɔːm], calm [kʰɑːm], palm [pʰɑːm], psalm [sɑːm].

**For /n/:**

**gn:** assgn [əˈseɪn], degn [deɪn], gnat [næt], gnome [noʊm].

**kn-:** knew [nuː], knife [naɪf], know [noʊ], knowledge [ˈnɔːlɪdʒ].

**mn:** mnemonics [nɪˈmɔːnɪks].

**n:** any [eni], gan [geɪn], none [nʌn], nun [nʌn].

**-ne:** cane [kʰeɪn], fine [faɪn], lane [leɪn].

**-nn-:** annoy [əˈnoɪ], funny [ˈfʌni], running [ˈrʌnɪŋ].

**-nne:** Anne [æˈn].

**pn-** punematic [nuːˈmæːrɪk], punemonia [nuːˈmoʊniə].

**For /ŋ/:**

**-ng:** long [lɒŋ], sing [sɪŋ], tongs [tʰɒŋz].

**-ngue:** hangue [həˈræŋ], mengue [məˈræŋ], tongue [tʰʌŋ].



**For /l/:**

**l:** late, alive [ə'laɪv], Paul [p<sup>h</sup>ɔʊt].

**ll:** call [k<sup>h</sup>ɔʊt], falling ['fɔʊlɪŋ].

**-le:** aisle [aɪt], ale [eɪt], file [faɪt], little ['lɪtlt], role [roʊt], smile [smaɪt].

**For /r/:**

**r:** around [ə'raʊnd], bright [brart], bury ['bɛri], crane [kɹeɪn], far [fɑːr], great [grɛrt], hair [hɛər], hurt [hɜːrt], mart [mɑːrt], peer [p<sup>h</sup>iər], rain [reɪn], rent [rɛnt], ring [rɪŋ], ringer ['rɪŋər], sir [sɜːr], stir [stɜːr], tear (n) [t<sup>h</sup>iər], tear (v.) [t<sup>h</sup>ɛər], vary ['vɛri], very ['vɛri].

**-rr-:** arrive [ə'raɪv], berry ['bɛri], burrow ['bɜːrou], carry ['kæri, 'kɛri], ferry ['fɛri], marry ['mæri, 'mɛri], Perry [p<sup>h</sup>ɛri], sorrow ['sɑːrou], sorry ['sɑːri], stirrer ['stɜːrər], stirring ['stɜːrɪŋ], Terry [t<sup>h</sup>ɛr], tomorrow [tə'mɑːrou].

**-re:** are [ɑːr], care [kɛər], fare [fɛər], hare [hɛər], glare [glɛər], mare [mɛər], pare [pɛər], tare [tɛər].

**rh-:** rhetoric [rɛ'rɛtɪk], rhetorical [rɛ'thɔːrɪkəl], rhinoceros [rɪ'nɒsərəs], rhyme [raɪm], rhythm ['rɪðəm].

**wr-:** wreck [rek], wren [rɛ'n], wring [rɪŋ], write [raɪt], written ['rɪtɪn], wrong [rɔːŋ], wrote [roʊt], wrought [rɔːt], wrung [rʌŋ].

**For /j/:**

**-ew:** anew [ə'njuː], few [fjuː], knew [njuː], new [njuː], news [njuːz], pew [pjʊː].

**eu- /ju:, jʊ/:** Europe [jʊrɒp, 'jɜːrɒp] (AmE), European [jʊrə'piːən], euthanasia [juːθə'niːzə], neuter ['njuːtə] (BrE).

**i:** bunion ['bʊ'njən], onion ['ɒ'njən].

**y-:** yacht [jɔt], yam [jæm], year [jɪər], yes [jes], yet [jet], yew [juː], yoga [jɔʊgə], yogurt [jɔʊgərt] (AmE) ['jɔːgət] (BrE), you [juː], young [jʌŋ].

**u /ju:, jʊ/:** confusion [kən'fjuːʒən], cure [kjʊər], curious ['kjʊəriəs], muse [mjʊːz], music ['mjʊːzɪk], pure [pjʊər], use (v.) [juːz],

**-ue /ju:/:** argue ['ɑːrgjuː], barbecue ['bɑːrbɪkjuː], cue [kjuː], hue [hjuː].

**For /w/:**

**u:** quality ['kwɔːləti], question ['kwɛstʃən], quick [kwɪk],

**w:** away [ə'weɪ], between [bɪ'twi:n], swam [swæm], swear [swɛər], swim [swɪm], swore [swɔːr], twenty ['twɛni], twins [twɪnz], wait [weɪt], walk [wɔk], want [wɔnt], won [wɔn], warm [wɔːrm], wood [wʊd], word [wɔːrd], won't [wɒnt], world [wɔːrld], worm [wɔːrm], worth [wɔːrθ], worthy ['wɔːrði], would [wʊd].

**wh-:** what [wɔt, wɒt, wʌt, wət], when [wɛn], where [wɛər], which [wɪtʃ], whore [hɔːr], why [waɪ].

**Note:** one [wʌn].