

















The English Alphabetic Code






simple code		dipping into complex code						
phonemes and key words	graphemes of units 1 to 5 and key words							
/s/ 	S snake	-ss glass	-ce palace	-se house				
/a/ 	a apple							
/t/ 	t teddy	-tt letter	-ed skipped					
/i/ 	i insect	* -y sunny						






<p>/p/</p> 	<p>p</p> <p>pan</p>	<p>-pp</p> <p>puppet</p>						
<p>/n/</p> 	<p>n</p> <p>net</p>	<p>-nn</p> <p>bonnet</p>						
<p>/k/</p> 	<p>k</p> <p>kit</p>	<p>c</p> <p>cat</p>	<p>-ck</p> <p>duck</p>					
<p>/e/</p> 	<p>e</p> <p>egg</p>	<p>ea</p> <p>head</p>	<p>ai</p> <p>said again</p>					
<p>/h/</p> 	<p>h</p> <p>hat</p>							






/r/ 	r rat	-rr arrow						
/m/ 	m map	mm hammer						
/d/ 	d dig	-dd puddle	-ed rained					
/g/ 	g girl	-gg juggle						
/o/ 	o orange							






<u>/u/</u> 	u <u>u</u> mbrella	-o son						
<u>/l/</u> 	l <u>l</u> adder	-ll shell						
<u>/ul/</u> schwa 		-le kettle						
<u>/f/</u> 	f <u>f</u> eathers	-ff cliff						
<u>/b/</u> 	b <u>b</u> at	-bb rabb <u>it</u>						




/j/ 	j jug	-ge cabbag <u>e</u>						
/y/ 	y yawn							
/ai/ 	ai a <u>i</u> d	ay tr <u>a</u> y	a t <u>a</u> ble					
/w/ 	w w <u>e</u> b	wh w <u>h</u> eel						
/oa/ 	oa o <u>a</u> k	ow b <u>o</u> w	o y <u>o</u> -y <u>o</u>					

/igh/ 	-igh night	-ie tie	i behind	-y shy				
/ee/ 	ee eel	ea eat	e emu	* -y rainy	-ey key * monkey			
/or/ 	or fork							
/z/ 	z zebra	-zz jazz	-s fries	-se cheese	-ze breeze			
/ng/ 	-ng gong							

/ŋk/ 	-nk ink							
/v/ 	v violin	-ve dove						
/oo/ 	oo book	oul shoul						
/oo/ 	oo moon	-ue blue						
/ks/ 	-x fox	-ks books	-cks ducks	-kes cakes				

<p>/ch/</p> 	<p>ch</p> <p>chairs</p>							
<p>/sh/</p> 	<p>sh</p> <p>sheep</p>							
<p>/th/</p> 	<p>th</p> <p>thistle</p>							
<p>/th/</p> 	<p>th</p> <p>there</p>							
<p>/kw/</p> 	<p>qu</p> <p>queen</p>							

<p>/ou/</p> 	<p>ou</p> <p>ouch</p>	<p>ow</p> <p>owl</p>						
<p>/oi/</p> 	<p>oi</p> <p>ointment</p>	<p>oy</p> <p>toy</p>						
<p>/yoo/</p> 	<p>-ue</p> <p>statue</p>	<p>u</p> <p>unicorn</p>						
<p>/er/</p> 	<p>er</p> <p>mermaid</p>					<p>/er/ schwa</p> <p>mixer</p>		
<p>/ar/</p> 	<p>ar</p> <p>artist</p>	<p>a</p> <p>father</p>						

/air/ 								
/eer/ 								
/zh/ 								

*-y, *-ey, *-ie are often pronounced between /i/ and /ee/ when these graphemes are word-endings.

The complexities of the English Alphabetic Code include:

1. one sound (phoneme) can be represented by one, two, three or four letters: e.g. k, sh, ng, igh, eigh
2. one sound can be represented by different spellings (graphemes): e.g. /oa/ is represented by: o, oa, ow, oe, o-e, eau, ough
3. one spelling can represent multiple sounds: e.g. 'ough': /oa/ **though**, /or/ **thought**, /oo/ **through**, /ou/ **plough**, /u/ **thorough**

Key to the 12 units of Debbie Hepplewhite's Phonics International online synthetic phonics programme:

units 1-5	Mainly simple code with options to extend	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	
6-12	/air/, /eer/, /zh/, split digraphs, complex code	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th 12th

Debbie's programme introduces a simple code of at least one letter/s-sound correspondence for each of the 44+ sounds of speech of the English language. The programme then expands to teach further spelling and pronunciation variations of the complex Alphabetic Code.