# The English Alphabetic Code
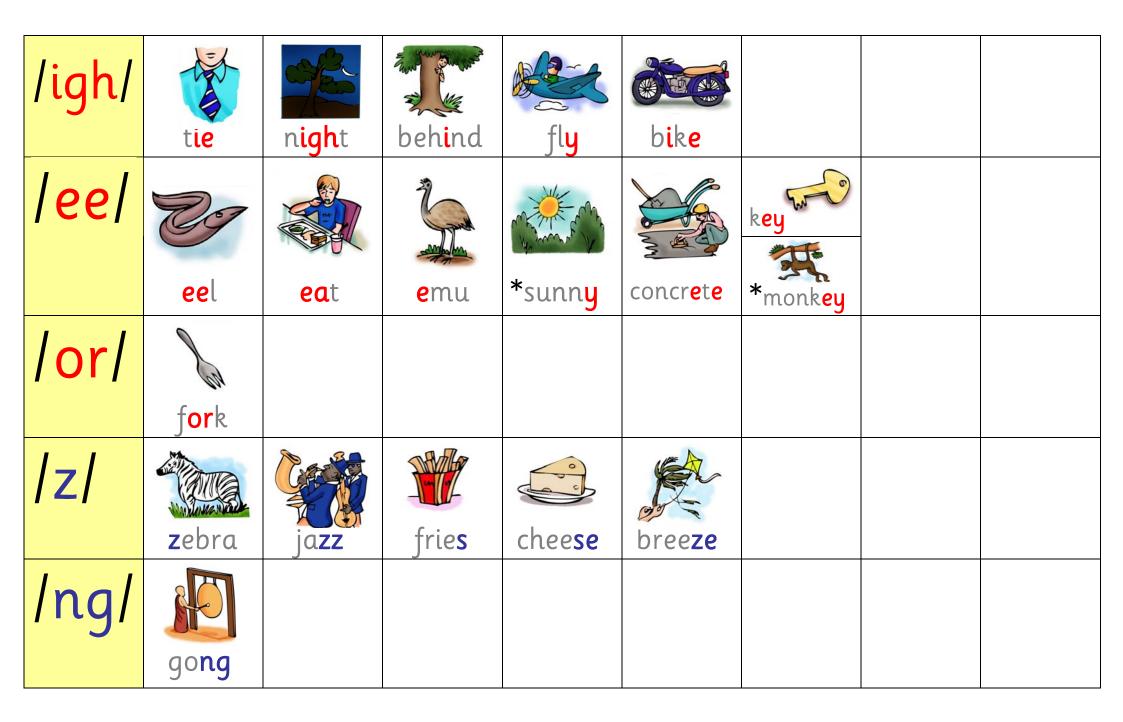
| simple code | dipping into complex code | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| phonemes | graphemes of units 1 to 6<br>key words<br>key pictures | | | | |
| /s/ | snake | gla**ss** | pala**ce** | hou**se** | **c**ents **c**ity bi**c**ycle |
| /a/ | **a**pple | | | | |
| /t/ | **t**eddy | le**tt**er | skipp**ed** | | |
| /i/ | **i**nsect | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **/p/** | **p**an | pu**pp**et | | | | | |
| **/n/** | **n**et | bo**nn**et | | | | | |
| **/k/** | **c**at | **k**it | du**ck** | | | | |
| **/e/** | **e**gg | h**ea**d | s**ai**d | | | | |
| **/h/** | **h**at | | | | | | |

| /r/ | rat | arrow | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| /m/ | map | hammer | welcome | | | | |
| /d/ | dig | puddle | rained | | | | |
| /g/ | girl | juggle | | | | | |
| /o/ | orange | | | | | | |

| /u/ | umbrella | son | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| /l/ | ladder | shell | | | | | | |
| /ul/ | | kettle | | | | | | |
| /f/ | feathers | cliff | | | | | | |
| /b/ | bat | rabbit | | | | | | |

| /j/ | jug | cabba**ge** | **g**erbil **g**iraffe **g**ymnast | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| /y/ | **y**awn | | | | | | |
| /ai/ | **ai**d | tr**ay** | t**a**ble | sund**ae** | c**a**k**e**s | | |
| /w/ | **w**eb | **wh**eel | | | | | |
| /oa/ | **oa**k | b**ow** | pian**o** | ob**oe** | r**o**p**e** | | |

| /igh/ | t**ie** | n**igh**t | beh**i**nd | fl**y** | b**i**k**e** | | |
| /ee/ | **ee**l | **ea**t | **e**mu | *sunn**y** | concr**e**t**e** | k**ey** / *monk**ey** | |
| /or/ | f**or**k | | | | | | |
| /z/ | **z**ebra | ja**zz** | frie**s** | chee**se** | bree**ze** | | |
| /ng/ | go**ng** | | | | | | |

| /ngk/ |  ink | | | | | | | |
| /v/ |  violin |  dove | | | | | | |
| /oo/ |  book |  should | | | | | | |
| /oo/ |  moon |  blue |  flute | | | | | |
| /ks/ |  fox |  books |  cakes |  ducks | | | | |

| /ch/ | chairs | | | | | | |
|------|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| /sh/ | sheep | | | | | | |
| /th/ | thistle | | | | | | |
| /th/ | there | | | | | | |
| /kw/ | queen | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| /**ou**/ | **ou**ch | **ow**l | | | | | |
| /**oi**/ | **oi**ntment | t**oy** | | | | | |
| /**yoo**/ | stat**ue** | **u**nicorn | t**u**b**e** | | | | |
| /**er**/ | m**er**maid | b**ir**thday | n**ur**se | **ear**th | w**or**ld | mix**er** | hum**our** | theat**re** |
| /**ar**/ | **ar**tist | f**a**ther | | | | | |

| /air/ |  hair |  hare |  bear |  where | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| /eer/ |  deer |  ears |  adhere |  cashier | | | |
| /zh/ | | | | | | | |

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

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.