

Names of Vowel Letters in the English Alphabet

The vowel letters in English are *a, i, o*, for sure. The letter *e* is sometimes a vowel letter and sometimes an ending. The letters *u, y, w* are sometimes vowel letters and sometimes consonant letters.

Whether they are vowel letters, endings, or consonants letters, *a, e, i, o, u, y*, and *w* have these names:

A, a	pronounced /ey/	Click here for the name of A.
E, e	pronounced /iy/	Click here for the name of E.
I, i	pronounced /ay/	Click here for the name of I.
O, o	pronounced /ow/	Click here for the name of O.
U, u	pronounced /yuw/	Click here for the name of U.
Y, y	pronounced /wey/	Click here for the name of Y.
W, w	pronounced Double-U /dʌbəl yuw/	Click here for the name of W.

Listen for the vowel names embedded in this children's song which lists all the letters of the alphabet by their names. [Click here for the song.](#)

ABCDEFGH IJKLMNOP QRS TUV WX Y&Z
Now I know my ABCs
Won't you sing along with me?
ABCDEFGH IJKLMNOP QRS TUV WX Y&Z

Only one of these letters has two different names. In England, the last letter is also called 'Zed'.

Vowel names are the names we use when we tell someone how to spell a word, as when we spell out our name. So it is important to know letter names well.

Do not confuse vowel names with vowel sounds. As you have noticed, vowel letters can represent many different vowel sounds in words. No matter how they are pronounced, the letters always have the same names.

The first four letter names begin with vowel sounds, /ey, iy, ay, ow/. The names of the fifth and sixth letters begin with a consonant sounds Y: Wye: /wey/ and U: /yuw/. The last letter is named for its shape which repeats the same letter, U or V: Double-U. Our name for the letter W comes from the handwritten form of the letter where it is written with rounded bottoms, not from the printed form of the letter with pointed bottoms.