

## Names & Sounds of Vowel Symbols

Each vowel symbol in the vowel chart has a name. To talk easily about vowel sounds, you need to learn the vowel symbol names. To take transcription and predict vowel sounds, you also need to know the sound associated with each symbol. This lesson and the audio version of the vowel chart will help.

### A. Vowel Symbol Names

Vowel symbols fall into three main groups:

**Glided:** ay, iy, ey, oy, uw, ow, aw, ɜr  
**Unglided:** ɪ, ɛ, æ, ʌ, ɑ, ʊ, ɔ  
**Reduced:** ə, ɪ

Here are the names of the glided vowels:

/ay/ - print-a wye	/ɔy/ - open-o wye	/ow/ - o double-u
/iy/ - i wye	/uw/ - u double-u	/aw/ - print-a double-u
/ey/ - e wye		/ɜr/ - reversed-epsilon ar

Write out the names of the following vowel symbols:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. /uw/ _____ | 4. /ey/ _____ |
| 2. /ɜr/ _____ | 5. /ɔy/ _____ |
| 3. /iy/ _____ | 6. /aw/ _____ |

These are the names of unglided and reduced vowels:

/ɪ/ - small cap i,	/æ/ - ash	/ɑ/ - script a	/ɔ/ - open-o
/ɛ/ - epsilon	/ʌ/ - caret	/ʊ/ - upsilon	/ə/ - schwa

Write out the names of the following vowel symbols:

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. /ɪ/ _____  | 6. /æ/ _____   |
| 2. /ʊ/ _____  | 7. /ɛ/ _____   |
| 3. /ʌ/ _____  | 8. /ɜr/ _____  |
| 4. /ɑ/ _____  | 9. /ə/ _____   |
| 5. /ay/ _____ | 10. /ow/ _____ |

## B. Vowel Symbol Sounds

Each vowel symbol represents a single vowel in English. You should be able to identify the sound of each vowel symbol and use the symbol to write English sounds.

*Circle the word that contains the vowel sound represented by the symbol on the left.*

/æ/	grind	groaned	grand	ground
/ow/	tune	tone	town	tawny
/aw/	laud	lode	lad	loud
/ɛ/	wed	wade	wide	weed
/iy/	beet	bite	bait	bit
/ɪ/	fly	flee	flit	flay
/ɑ/	scat	scout	scoot	Scott
/ey/	bait	bat	beat	bet
/ʌ/	sock	sack	suck	sake
/ay/	prayed	pride	proud	prod

*Write the vowel symbol to represent the vowel sound in each of the following words.*

wise	/	/	fell	/	/	crime	/	/
crush	/	/	noise	/	/	now	/	/
sir	/	/	fed	/	/	stop	/	/
age	/	/	lick	/	/	cone	/	/
rude	/	/	scrap	/	/	team	/	/

## C. Summary

*Complete the following table. The examples are common English names.*

Symbol	Name	Example	Symbol	Name	Example
/ɔy/	_____	Ll__d	/ɜr/	_____	B__t
/ɑ/	_____	M__lly	/ey/	_____	J__ne
/uw/	_____	J__lie	/ʌ/	_____	Ch__ck
/æ/	_____	S__m	/ɛ/	_____	B__tty
/ɪ/	_____	L__nda	/ow/	_____	R__se

*Check your answers. p. 2top:* /æ/ grand; /ow/ tone; /aw/ loud; /ɛ/ wed; /iy/ beet; /ɪ/ flit; /ɑ/ Scott; /ey/ bait; /ʌ/ suck; /ay/ pride. **p. 2mid:** wise /ay/; fell /ɛ/; crime /ay/; crush /ʌ/; noise /ɔy/; now /aw/; sir /ɜr/; fed /ɛ/; stop /ɒ/; age /ey/; lick /ɪ/; cone /ow/; rude /uw/; scrap /æ/; team /iy/. **p. 2bot:** Lloyd; Molly; Julie; Sam; Linda; Bert; Jane; Chuck; Betty; Rose.