Specific VV Patterns II

All stressed VV patterns ending in *u* and *w* are specific because the general pattern, V́V = name, makes wrong predictions for them. This lesson examines stressed *ou* and *ow* spellings. Their pronunciations are predictable by noting position and nearby consonants.

A. Patterns for *ou*

The native English pronunciation for *ou* is /aw/. Most French loanwords with this spelling are pronounced as /uw/. How do you know which sound to use for *ou* in a particular word?

gr<u>ou</u>p ó̱up = /uw/   **gr<u>ound</u>**   ó̱un = /aw/

Anywhere in a word, the *oup* and *oun* spellings will make their respective predictions. Use these patterns first, if you can. If they do not apply, then see if the *ou* is in the Key Syllable. If it is, and one or two consonant letters follow, then use the **ó̱uC(C)• = /aw/** pattern, where the raised dot means "at the end of a word **or** before a basic ending". If the *ou* is not followed by *p* or *n*, or if it not followed by one or two consonant letters in the Key, then it fits the **ó̱u = /uw/** pattern. Follow the order of application carefully.

p<u>out</u>(ing)   ó̱uC• = /aw/   có̱upò̱n   ó̱u = /uw/
p<u>ouch</u>(es)   ó̱uCC• = /aw/   cáribò̱u   ò̱u = /uw/

a.   *Underline the Key Syllable.*
b.   *Write out the vowel quality pattern of the* **ou** *in each word.*
c.   *Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.*

E.g. gr<u>ous</u>ing   <u>ó̱uC• = /aw/</u>   / aw /   6. profoundly _____ /   /

E.g. y<u>ou</u>   <u>ó̱u = /uw/</u>   / uw /   7. spouts   _____ /   /

1. tòupé̱e   _____ /   /   8. routine   _____ /   /

2. to founder _____ /   /   9. subgroup _____ /   /

3. acoustic   _____ /   /   10. dawned   _____ /   /

4. mouthing   _____ /   /   11. rousing   _____ /   /

5. troupes   _____ /   /   12. mountain _____ /   /

Note 1:   (Exceptions) couple, double, trouble, young, cousin, southern, country, touch /ʌ/; could, would, should /ʊ/; poultry, boulder, shoulder, soul /ow/; thou, thousand, trousers /aw/.

B. Patterns for *ow*

To predict /ow/ from stressed *ow*, the *ow* must be **in the Key**, have **at least two** consonant letters before it, and have **no** consonants after it. Otherwise, *őw* predicts /aw/. Unstressed *ow* is still fits the general pattern, **V̆V = name /ow/,** (e.g. **shállo̮w**)

sn<u>ow</u>   CCőw• = name /ow/   **n<u>ow</u>**   őw = /aw/

    a.   *Underline the Key of each word.*
    b.   *Write out the vowel quality pattern of the* ow.
    c.   *Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.*

E.g. bl<u>ow</u>ing	CCőw• = name	/ow/	5. flowed	_____	/ /
E.g. bow<u>e</u>ls	őw = /aw/	/aw/	6. disavőw	_____	/ /
1. wíndo̮w	_____	/ /	7. shádo̮ws	_____	/ /
2. crows	_____	/ /	8. growling	_____	/ /
3. crowds	_____	/ /	9. growing	_____	/ /
4. fló̮we̮red	_____	/ /	10. mínno̮w	_____	/ /

Note 2:   Past participles: blown, flown, grown, known, thrown /ow/; Others: brow, plow /aw/; bow, bowl, below, low, mow, owe, own, sow, row, tow /ow/; knowledge /ɑ ~ ɔ/.

C. Review of *au, aw, eu, ew, ou, ow* and *oo* Patterns

    a.   *Underline the Key of each word.*
    b.   *Write out the vowel quality pattern* Vu, Vw, *or* oo *spelling.*
    c.   *Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.*

E.g. sch<u>oo</u>ling	oó = /uw/	/ uw /	5. alóof	_____	/ /
E.g. p<u>ou</u>nced	óun = /aw/	/ aw /	6. élbo̮ws	_____	/ /
1. pó̮we̮red	_____	/ /	7. slew	_____	/ /
2. gnawing	_____	/ /	8. aeronautics	_____	/ /
3. néute̮red	_____	/ /	9. alóud	_____	/ /
4. scóundre̮l	_____	/ /	10. nóuga̮t	_____	/ /

Check your answers to items 1-5. **p. 1.** 1. toupee, óup = /uw/; 2. founder, óun = /aw/; 3. acoustic, óu = /uw/; 4. mouthing, óuCC• = /aw/; 5. troupes, òup = /uw/. **p. 2top.** 1. window, V̆V = name /ow/; 2. crows, CCőw• = /ow/; 3. crowds, őw = /aw/; 4. flowered, őw = /aw/; 5. flowed, CCőw• = /ow/. **p. 2bot.** 1. powered, őw = /aw/; 2. gnawing, áw = /ɑ ~ ɔ/; 3. neutered, éu = /uw/; 4. scoundrel, óun = /aw/; 5. aloof, oó = /uw/.