_____
Name

# V in Key Syllables

To this point, you have used five general vowel prediction patterns to predict the sound of the key vowel: You match the key with a **vowel quality pattern** (a formula composed of word stress, a vowel spelling pattern, a vowel quality clue) and you use the **name-shape translator** to generate a vowel symbol by combining the standard spelling of a vowel with the vowel quality clue. This lesson expands your power by introducing five new patterns–two that are general and three that are specific.

## A. Parts of a Vowel Quality Pattern

The five patterns of this lesson are alike in consisting of a single vowel letter and **no** following consonant letter. The only thing that can follow these patterns is an ending. The patterns are also alike in conforming to highly regular prediction patterns made up of a vowel spelling pattern, a degree of stress, and a vowel quality clue. Let us look at these three parts of a vowel quality pattern.

1. **Vowel Spelling Pattern.**

   V has only one vowel letter. It occurs mainly at the end of a word or before a basic ending, as in *toe.* The vowel spelling for *toe* is V, not V+E. E (non-neutral ending) is irrelevant here as are all neutral endings. There is no such pattern as V+E. We call this the V (**vee**) pattern.

   *a. Underline the key syllable in each word below.*
   *b. Identify the spelling pattern of each key syllable.*

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.g. hello | V | 5. | equating | _____ | 11. | alto | _____ |
| E.g. commute | VC+E | 6. | potatoes | _____ | 12. | agree | _____ |
| 1. flu | _____ | 7. | jersey | _____ | 13. | greed | _____ |
| 2. billowing | _____ | 8. | quakes | _____ | 14. | denying | _____ |
| 3. issue | _____ | 9. | mellow | _____ | 15. | piloting | _____ |
| 4. treated | _____ | 10. | complained | _____ | 16. | being | _____ |

2. **Stress.** The single vowel letter may carry either major ( ˊ ) or minor ( ˋ ) stress (together called 'stressed') or unstress ( ˘ ).

3. **Vowel Quality Clue.** The right side of the pattern may have "name," "shape," or "reduced." "Name" + vowel letter predicts the glided vowel name of the vowel letter. "Shape" + vowel letter suggests the unglided vowel symbol. "Reduced" + vowel letter always predicts schwa, /ə/, or /ɪ/ (if spelled *e, i, y*).

Recall the "name" clues for glided vowels:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **a, A** | /ey/ | **fade** | **o, O** | /ow/ | **bone** |
| **e, E** | /iy/ | **feed** | **u, U** | (y)/uw/ | **boot** |
| **i, I** | /ay/ | **fine** | **y, Y** | (w)/ay/ | **fine** |

## B. General Vowel Quality Patterns for Glided Vowels

The three parts above come together to form the following vowel quality patterns.

1. V́ = name (V̀ = name) — *me, freed, denied, prying, goes, glued.* Name + the underlined vowel letter combine with these results: /iy, iy, ay, ay, ow, uw/, respectively.
2. V̆ = name — *piánŏs, ménŭ.* Similarly, name + *o* and *u* translate into /ow/ and /uw/, respectively.

It may seem surprising that the unstressed V (V̆) predicts "name" and not "reduced." Recall that we predict reduced most generally when a consonant letter follows the unstressed vowel. This pattern has no following consonant letter.

*a. Underline the key syllable in each word below.*
*b. Write out the vowel quality pattern of the key.*
*c. Transcribe the key vowel using the name-shape translator.*
*d. Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.*

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.g. embúed | V́ = name | / uw / | 8. | hálloŭw | | / | / |
| E.g. rívěting | V̆C+E = reduced | / ə/ɪ / | 9. | concéde | | / | / |
| 1. scrímăged | | / / | 10. | míschĭef | | / | / |
| 2. to replý | | / / | 11. | throes | | / | / |
| 3. maînstaỳ | | / / | 12. | a lúlŭ | | / | / |
| 4. álĭbì | | / / | 13. | quaintly | | / | / |
| 5. voiding | | / / | 14. | ápŏgèe | | / | / |
| 6. índĭgŏ | | / / | 15. | sólăce | | / | / |
| 7. implóded | | / / | 16. | Pĕrú | | / | / |

## C. Specific Vowel Quality Patterns for Glided and Reduced Vowels

The vowel quality patterns presented so far apply to any vowel letter, hence, the use of V, and the vowel quality clue is also general–"name", "shape", or "reduced". Thus, they are called **general** vowel quality patterns. The next three patterns are **specific**, because either they apply to particular vowel letters or they predict particular vowel sounds, or both. Since general patterns will predict wrong vowels in these cases, you must use specific patterns before general patterns to avoid errors.

The three specific patterns involve the letters *y, i,* and *a*. Their predictions are reliable but unusual. In the first two, the prediction is /iy/, not "name". In the third, no consonant letter follows the unstressed vowel. Yet it predicts "reduced".

3. y̆ = /iy/ — *uncán<u>y̆</u>, rállÿing.* The key vowel, *y*, is always word final. It fits the specific pattern and predicts /iy/.

4. ĭ = /iy/ — *táx<u>ĭ</u>, cálŏr<u>ĭ</u>es.* This spelling often arises when *y* is followed by a plural or past tense: *pit<u>y</u>, pit<u>i</u>es, pit<u>i</u>ed.* The prediction is /iy/.

5. ă = reduced — *cámĕr<u>ă</u>*. This pattern is always word final. It has no following letter. The prediction for "reduced" is always /ə/.

*a. Underline the key syllable in each word below.*
*b. Write out the vowel quality pattern of the key.*
*c. Transcribe the key vowel using the name-shape translator.*
*d. Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.*

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.g. | overtr<u>ý</u> | V́ = name | / ay / | 10. | jérse<u>y̆</u>s | | / / |
| E.g. | có<u>u</u>ntr<u>y̆</u> | y̆ = /iy/ | / iy / | 11. | devótedly | | / / |
| 1. | cárgŏ | | / / | 12. | to rállÿ | | / / |
| 2. | plásmă | | / / | 13. | wídŏ<u>w</u>ed | | / / |
| 3. | lóbbĭed | | / / | 14. | regró<u>w</u>n | | / / |
| 4. | fórfe<u>ĭ</u>ting | | / / | 15. | 3 bánjŏs | | / / |
| 5. | conce<u>ĭ</u>ted | | / / | 16. | cúrtsĭed | | / / |
| 6. | a vénŭe | | / / | 17. | replíed | | / / |
| 7. | fáncÿing | | / / | 18. | 2 anténnăs | | / / |
| 8. | applýing | | / / | 19. | grímăced | | / / |
| 9. | agó | | / / | 20. | constrúe | | / / |

*Check your answers:* **p. 1.** 1. <u>u</u>, V; 2. <u>ow</u>, VV; 3. <u>u</u>, V; 4. <u>ea</u>t, VV; 5. <u>at</u>, VC+E; 6. <u>o</u>; V; 7. <u>ey</u>, VV; 8. <u>ak</u>, VC+E; 9. <u>ow</u>, VV; 10. <u>ai</u>n, VV; 11. <u>o</u>; V; 12. <u>e</u>; V; 13. <u>ee</u>d, VV; 14. <u>y</u>, V; 15. <u>ot</u>, VC+E; 12. <u>e</u>; V. **p. 2.** 1. <u>ag</u>, V̆C+E = reduced, / ə /; 2. <u>y</u>, V́ = name, /ay/; 3. <u>ay</u>, V̀V = name, /ey/; 4. <u>i</u>, V̀= name, /ay/; 5. <u>oi</u>d, V́V = name, /ɔy/; 6. <u>o</u>, V̆ = name, /ow/; 7. <u>od</u>, V́C+E = name, /ow/; 8. <u>ow</u>, V̆V = name, /ow/; 9. <u>ed</u>, V́C+E = name, /iy/; 10. <u>ief</u>, V̆V̆C = reduced, / ə/ɪ /; 11. <u>o</u>, V́ = name, /ow/; 12. <u>u</u>, V̆ = name, /uw/; 13. <u>ai</u>nt, V̆V = name, /ey/; 14. <u>e</u>, V̀= name, /iy/; 15. <u>ac</u>, V̆C+E = reduced, / ə /; 16. <u>u</u>, V́ = name, /uw/. **p. 3.** 1. <u>o</u>, V̆= name, /ow/; 2. <u>a</u>, ă = reduced, /ə/; 3. <u>i</u>, ĭ = /iy/; 4. <u>ei</u>t, V̆V̆C= reduced, / ə/ɪ /; 5. <u>ei</u>t, V̆V = name, /iy/; 6. <u>u</u>, V̆= name, /uw/; 7. <u>y</u>, y̆ = /iy/; 8. <u>y</u>, V́ = name, /ay/; 9. <u>o</u>, V́ = name, /ow/; 10. <u>ey</u>, VV = name, /iy/; 11. <u>ot</u>, VC+E = name, /ow/; 12. <u>y</u>, y̆ = /iy/; 13. <u>ow</u>, V̆V = name, /ow/; 14. <u>own</u>, VV = name, /ow/; 15. <u>o</u>, V̆= name, /ow/; 16. <u>i</u>, ĭ = /iy/; 17. <u>i</u>, V́ = name, /ay/; 18. <u>a</u>, ă = reduced, /ə/; 19. <u>ac</u>, V̆C+E = reduced, / ə /; 20. <u>u</u>, V́ = name, /uw/.