

VC← and uC← for Left Syllables

Three of the four word-stress rules allow stress on Left Syllables. What patterns predict vowel sounds in stressed and unstressed Keys and stressed Left Syllables? To answer this question, you need only three new vowel quality patterns beyond those you already know.

A. Name and Shape Patterns for Key Syllables

Patterns for Stressed Vowels. You have studied most of the vowel quality patterns that predict the sound of stressed vowels in Key Syllables. Here are some examples. Recall that the Key consist of one or two vowel letters but not the *i* or *u* of iV- or uV-spellings.

l<u>o</u>yal				l<u>u</u>strous			
d<u>u</u>al				or<u>i</u>ental			

A familiar pattern for Key Syllables reappears: **VC+E = name**. Since a VSR ending is a non-neutral ending, the same pattern can be used for a stressed Key: **VC+E = name (stressed vee-cee-plus-e)**. Study these examples.

VC+E = name					
áC+E	éC+E	íC+E	ýC+E	óC+E	úC+E
f<u>a</u>mous	l<u>e</u>gal	sp<u>i</u>nous	t<u>y</u>pal	ó<u>o</u>val	m<u>u</u>cous
/ey/	/iy/	/ay/	/ay/	/ow/	/uw/

- a. Underline the Key and mark the stress of each word.
- 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. gl <u>o</u> bal				5. trial			
E.g. por <u>e</u> ntous				6. callously			
1. frugally				7. coastal			
2. joyous				8. regal			
3. dextrous				9. viscous			
4. phrasal				10. finally			

* Among -al and -ous VSR words, a few exceptional Key vowels appear: *jealous* /ɛ/, *zealous* /ɛ/, *metal* /ɛ/, *medal* /ɛ/, *petal* /ɛ/, *pedal* /ɛ/.

Patterns for Unstressed Vowels. When we Stress Left, we leave the Key unstressed. You know nearly all of the patterns for unstressed Key vowels. *Study these examples.*

evéntual \check{V} = name /uw/ **semántic** $\check{V}C\#$ = reduced /ə-ɪ/
análogous $\check{V}C+E$ = reduced / ə /

- a. *Underline the Key and mark the stress of each word.*
- 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. tóxic $\check{V}C\#$ = reduced / ə-ɪ / 5. locally _____ / /
E.g. pópulous $\check{V}C+E$ = reduced / ə / 6. anonymous _____ / /
1. spinal _____ / / 7. porous _____ / /
2. momentous _____ / / 8. impetuous _____ / /
3. eventually _____ / / 9. royally _____ / /
4. gymnastics _____ / / 10. conjugal _____ / /

B. Name and Shape Patterns for Left Syllables

You are already familiar with some patterns for Left Syllables. Recall that in *Vic* words, *ic* is in the Key; the *V* is in the Left Syllable. Furthermore, in *iV* and *uV* spellings, only the *V* is in the Key; the *i* and *u* are in the Left Syllable. The single *V* in the Left Syllable conforms to the first pattern below. *Study these examples.*

\acute{V} = name

archáic /ey/ heróic /ow/
sociétal /ay/ circúitous /uw/

$\acute{V}CC$ = shape

cáncerous /æ/ ubíquitous /ɪ/ prósperous /ɔ ~ ɑ/
éthical /ɛ/ cýstic /ɪ/ cúltural /ʌ/

\acute{W} = name

póisonous /ɔy/ traítorous /ey/

- Underline the Key and mark the stress of each word.
- Write out the vowel quality pattern of the Left Syllable.
- Transcribe the Left vowel using the name-shape translator.
- Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.

E.g. incé <u>stu</u> ous	<u>VC</u> = shape	/ ε /	5. chiasm <u>ic</u>	_____ / /
E.g. mosá <u>ic</u>	<u>V</u> = name	/ ey /	6. circuitously	_____ / /
1. poison <u>ous</u>	_____ / /		7. infam <u>ous</u>	_____ / /
2. electr <u>ical</u>	_____ / /		8. mystic <u>ally</u>	_____ / /
3. logist <u>ics</u>	_____ / /		9. vari <u>etal</u>	_____ / /
4. riot <u>ous</u>	_____ / /		10. preposter <u>ous</u>	_____ / /

Most stressed Left Syllables have a single vowel letter followed by a single consonant letter, VC. Left Syllable vowels spelled *a*, *e*, *i*, *y*, and *o* are predictably unglided and fit the general **V̇C← = shape** pattern (**stressed vee-see-left**). The left-pointing arrow means “in the Left Syllable.” However, if the spelling of the vowel is *u*, a specific pattern applies – **úC← = name (stressed u-see-left)** – and predicts the glided vowel, /uw/. Study these examples.

V̇C← = shape					úC← = name
áC←	éC←	íC←	ýC←	óC←	úC←
l<u>á</u>teral	m<u>é</u>dical	v<u>í</u>gorous	t<u>ý</u>pical	ó<u>u</u>minous	vol<u>ú</u>minous
/æ/	/ɛ/	/ɪ/	/ɪ/	/ɑ-ɔ/	/uw/

- Underline the Key and mark the stress of each word.
- Write out the vowel quality pattern of the stressed vowel.
- Transcribe the predicted vowel using the name-shape translator.
- Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.

E.g. stú <u>por</u> ous	<u>úC</u> ← = name	/ uw /	7. palat <u>al</u>	_____ / /
E.g. crú <u>stal</u>	<u>VCC</u> = shape	/ ʌ /	8. vin <u>ous</u>	_____ / /
1. formul <u>aic</u>	_____ / /		9. lumin <u>ous</u>	_____ / /
2. fabul <u>ously</u>	_____ / /		10. intest <u>inal</u>	_____ / /
3. spher <u>oidal</u>	_____ / /		11. sp <u>inal</u>	_____ / /
4. pi <u>ous</u>	_____ / /		12. traitor <u>ous</u>	_____ / /
5. scrupul <u>ous</u>	_____ / /		13. princ <u>ipal</u>	_____ / /
6. fet <u>al</u>	_____ / /		14. zodiac <u>al</u>	_____ / /



A few words in the *-al*, *-ous*, and *ic* Key word groups have exceptional vowel qualities in the Left Syllable: *treacherous* /ɛ/, *aphasic* /ey/, *basic* /ey/, *anemic* /iy/, *orthopedic* /iy/, *paraplegic* /iy/, *strategic* /iy/, *procedural* /iy/, *aerobic* /ow/, *dangerous* /ey/.

C. Summary

- Mark the stress of each word below.
- Write out the vowel quality pattern of the target vowel.
- Transcribe the target vowel using the name-shape translator.
- Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.

Target: Stressed Vowel			Target: Key Vowel		
E.g. óminous	VC- = shape	/ɑ-ɔ/	E.g. triúmphal	VCC = shape	/ʌ/
1. Mesozoic	_____	/ /	1. maniacal	_____	/ /
2. humorously	_____	/ /	2. focal	_____	/ /
3. disastrous	_____	/ /	3. continental	_____	/ /
4. periodic	_____	/ /	4. anonymous	_____	/ /
5. residual	_____	/ /	5. athletics	_____	/ /
6. renal	_____	/ /	6. disastrous	_____	/ /
7. atypical	_____	/ /	7. usually	_____	/ /
8. ruinous	_____	/ /	8. penal	_____	/ /
9. disloyal	_____	/ /	9. cuboidal	_____	/ /
10. parietal	_____	/ /	10. tremendous	_____	/ /

Check your answers to items 1-5. **p. 1.** 1. frúgally, VC+E = name /uw/; 2. joýous, VV = name /ɔy/; 3. déxtrous, VCC = shape /ɛ/; 4. phrásal, VC+E = name /ey/; 5. tríal, V = name /ay/.
p. 2. 1. spínal, VC+E = name /ay/; 2. moméntous, VCC = shape /ɛ/; 3. evéntually, V = name /uw/; 4. gymnástics, VC# = reduced /ə-ɪ/; 5. lóically, VC+E = name /ow/.
p. 3 top. 1. póisonous, VV = name /ɔy/; 2. eléctrical, VCC = shape /ɛ/; 3. logístics, VCC = shape /ɪ/; 4. ríotous, V = name /ay/; 5. chiástic, VCC = shape /æ/.
p. 3 bot. 1. formuláic, V = name /ey/; 2. fábulously, VC- = shape /æ/; 3. spheróidal, VV = name /ɔy/; 4. píous, V = name /ay/; 5. scrúpulous, úC- = name /uw/.
p. 4 str. 1. Mesozóic, V = name /ow/; 2. húmorously, úC- = name /uw/; 3. disástrous, VCC = shape /æ/; 4. períodic, VC- = shape /ɑ-ɔ/; 5. resíidual, VC- = shape, /ɪ/.
p. 4 unstr. 1. maníacal, VC+E = reduced /ə/; 2. fócal, VC+E = name /ow/; 3. continéntal, VCC = shape /ɛ/; 4. anónymous, VC+E = reduced /ə-ɪ/; 5. athlétics, VC# = reduced /ə-ɪ/.