

Invisible Y in GATs and SATs

The invisible /y/ appears *only* before certain spellings we call Y-ful Spellings. These spellings include the vowel letter *u* except when it is in the patterns *uC#*, *uCC*, *au*, *ou*. Everywhere else, *u* is a Y-ful Spelling. In addition, the spellings *eu* and *ew* are Y-ful Spellings everywhere.

The best rule is to use /y/ whenever you see a Y-ful Spelling. Omitting /y/ when it is required distorts the word, making it difficult to understand, like someone pronouncing *you* as /uw/ instead of /yuw/. One reason **not** to use the invisible /y/ before a Y-ful Spelling is if the preceding consonant is *j*, *r*, or *Cl*, as in *June*, *ruler*, *slew*.

When the Y-ful Spelling is stressed, the invisible /y/ may be used or omitted after the spellings *t*, *d*, *s*, *x*, *l*, or *n*, e.g. *tune*, *due*, *assúme*, *lube*, *new*, *áttitude*.

When the Y-ful Spelling is **unstressed**, the invisible /y/ is required. Common cases of unstressed Y-ful Spellings are *-űal*, *-űre*, *-űe*, e.g. *ánnűal*, *ténűre*, *váűe*.

Study your GAT and SAT lists. Write out at least 8 words that contain Y-ful Spellings. Underline the words that **must** have an invisible /y/, and **circle** those in which the invisible /y/ is **optional**. If you do not find 8 words for the GAT and SAT lists, go to your Focus Text or other sources to complete your count of 8 words in each category.

Practice these items before you record them.

GAT Y-ful Spellings: _____

SAT Y-ful Spellings: _____

