

Ash /æ/ Words Pronounced as Script A /ɑ/ in British English

In this list Lionel Guierre gives the full set of words in which /ɑ/ is used in British English for words commonly pronounced with /æ/ in American English. (*Drills in English Stress-Patterns*, 1984. Longman.)

The regional variation is not random but is describable in terms of the consonants surrounding the <a> and the position of the <a> in a word. For example, many words have <a> before a voiceless fricative /f, θ, s/ and before /n/+voiceless /ntʃ, ns, nt/ consonant. Among these words are unusual spellings for /f/, namely, *half, calf, laugh*.

(1 syllable)	craft	laugh	(2 syllables)	rafter	(3+ syllables)
aft	daft	mask	o o	rascal	o o o
ask	dance	mast	after	rather	chancery
bask	draft	pass	answer	sample	chancellor
bath	fast	past	basket	slander	masculine
blanch	flask	plant	casket	stanchion	raspberry
blast	gasp	prance	castle	vantage	
branch	glance	quaff	castor		o o
brass	glass	raft	chancel	o o	advantage
calf	graft	ranch	chandler	aghast	commando
calve	grant	shaft	fasten	advance	disaster
can't	graph	shan't	ghastly	behalf	example
cask	grasp	slant	master	command	exasperate
caste	grass	staff	nasty	demand	
chaff	half	stanch	pastor	enhance	o o o
chance	halve	task	pasture	giraffe	Alexander
chant	hasp	trance	plaster	impasse	
clasp	lance	trans- (all)	lancet	remand	
class	last	vast	lather	repast	