Specific VV Patterns I

The general \( \text{VV} = \text{name} \) pattern is a powerful predictor of vowel quality for many stressed vowels spelled with two vowel letters, e.g. \( ai, ay, ea, ee, oa, oi, oy \). However, for seven VV spellings, the general pattern fails to predict accurately. For these spellings – all ending in the letters \( u, w \) and \( o \) – specific patterns are needed. This lesson presents reliable patterns for \( au, aw, eu, ew, \) and \( oo \) spellings. Patterns for \( ou \) and \( ow \) come in the next lesson.

A. Patterns for \( au, aw \)

The spellings \( au \) and \( aw \) predict lax vowels, as shown below.

\[
\text{cause} \quad \text{au} = /\alpha - \alpha/ \quad \text{bawl} \quad \text{aw} = /\alpha - \alpha/
\]

Educated speakers in different English-speaking areas pronounce this spelling as /\alpha/ or /\alpha/. You may choose to write and to say either one; they are both correct. Remember to apply these specific patterns before applying the general pattern, \( \text{VV} = \text{name} \).

\( \text{a. Underline the Key of each word.} \)
\( \text{b. Write out the vowel quality pattern of the Key.} \)
\( \text{c. Transcribe the Key vowel using the name-shape translator as needed.} \)
\( \text{d. Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.} \)

E.g. vaulted \( \acute{\text{au}} = /\alpha - \alpha/ \quad \text{5. onslaught} \quad \text{5. onslaught was} / / \)
E.g. grains \( \acute{\text{V}} \text{V} = \text{name} / \text{ey} / \quad \text{6. quaking} \quad \text{6. quaking was} / / \)
1. dawned \( \text{dawned was} / / \quad \text{7. twanged} \quad \text{7. twanged was} / / \)
2. prays \( \text{prays was} / / \quad \text{8. duads} \quad \text{8. duads was} / / \)
3. crashed \( \text{crashed was} / / \quad \text{9. drawn} \quad \text{9. drawn was} / / \)
4. crawling \( \text{crawling was} / / \quad \text{10. faults} \quad \text{10. faults was} / / \)

\( \text{Note 1:} \quad \text{aunt, laugh /æ - α/; gauge /ey/; no aw spelling: away, await, awake, awoke, award, aware} \)

B. Patterns for \( eu, ew \)

The spellings \( eu \) and \( ew \) suggest only one glided pronunciation, as in these two patterns.

\[
\text{feud} \quad \text{eu} = /\text{uw}/ \quad \text{grew} \quad \text{ew} = /\text{uw}/
\]
a. Underline the Key of each word.
b. Write out the vowel quality pattern of the Key.
c. Transcribe the Key vowel using the name-shape translator as needed.
d. Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.

E.g. weeds  \( ÊV = \text{name} \) / iy /  5. straining  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /
E.g. screwing  \( Êw \) / uw/  6. sleuth’s  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /
1. deuce  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /
2. applàuse  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /
3. withdrew  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /
4. withdraw  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /

Note 2: Prefixes de-, pre-, re- before w & u stems do not create ew & eu spellings: prewar, reuse

C. Patterns for oo

The first vowel patterns for oo is more specific than the second and should be tried first.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{cook} & \quad \text{oo} = /\alpha/ \\
\text{food} & \quad \text{oo} = /\text{uw}/
\end{align*}
\]

a. Underline the Key of each word.
b. Write out the vowel quality pattern of the Key.
c. Transcribe the Key vowel using the name-shape translator as needed.
d. Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.

E.g. proof  \( \underline{\text{oo}} = /\text{uw}/ \) / uw /  7. scrawled  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /
E.g. moan  \( ÊV = \text{name} \) / ow /  8. hewing  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /
1. brook  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /
2. shooting  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /
3. choice  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /
4. smoking  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /
5. looked  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /
6. locked  \( \underline{\text{_____________}} / \ /

Note 3: blood, flood /\lambda/; good, hood, stood, wood, foot /\alpha/; door, floor /ow/; kook, spook /uw/

Check your answers to items 1-5.  p. 1. 1. dawned, \( aü = /\alpha - œ/ \); 2. praïs, ÊV = name /ey/; 3. crashed, VCC = shape /æ/; 4. crawling, \( aü = /\alpha - œ/ \); 5. onslaught, \( aü = /\alpha - œ/ \).  p. 2top. 1. deuce, \( eü = /\text{uw}/ \); 2. applause, \( aü = /\alpha - œ/ \); 3. withdrew, \( Êw = /\text{uw}/ \); 4. withdraw, \( Êw = /\alpha - œ/ \); 5. straining, \( ÊV = \text{name} /ey/ \).  p. 2bot. 1. brook, \( oök = /\alpha/ \); 2. shoot, \( oök = /\text{uw}/ \); 3. choice, \( ÊV = \text{name} /oy/ \); 4. smoking, \( VC+E = \text{name} /ow/ \); 5. looked, \( oök = /\alpha/ \).