Specific VV Patterns II

All stressed VV patterns ending in u and w are specific because the general pattern, VV = name, makes wrong predictions for them. This lesson examines stressed ou and ow spellings. Their pronunciations are predictable by noting position and nearby consonants.

A. Patterns for ou

The native English pronunciation for ou is /aw/. Most French loanwords with this spelling are pronounced as /uw/. How do you know which sound to use for ou in a particular word?

\[
\text{group } \text{ou} = /uw/ \quad \text{ground } \text{oun} = /aw/
\]

Anywhere in a word, the oup and oun spellings will make their respective predictions. Use these patterns first, if you can. If they do not apply, then see if the ou is in the Key Syllable. If it is, and one or two consonant letters follow, then use the ouC(C) = /aw/ pattern, where the raised dot means “at the end of a word or before a basic ending”. If the ou is not followed by p or n, or if it not followed by one or two consonant letters in the Key, then it fits the ou = /uw/ pattern. Follow the order of application carefully.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{pout(ing)} & \quad \text{ouC} = /aw/ \\
\text{pouch(es)} & \quad \text{ouCC} = /aw/ \\
\text{coupàn} & \quad \text{ou} = /uw/ \\
\text{cáribou} & \quad \text{ou} = /uw/
\end{align*}
\]

\[\begin{align*}
a. & \quad \text{Underline the Key Syllable.} \\
b. & \quad \text{Write out the vowel quality pattern of the ou in each word.} \\
c. & \quad \text{Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.}
\end{align*}\]

E.g. grousing  ouC = /aw/ / aw / 6. profoundly ___________ / /
E.g. you  ou = /uw/ / uw / 7. spouts ___________ / /
1. toutée ___________ / / 8. routine ___________ / /
2. to founder ___________ / / 9. subgroup ___________ / /
3. acoustic ___________ / / 10. dawned ___________ / /
4. mouthing ___________ / / 11. rousing ___________ / /
5. troups ___________ / / 12. mountain ___________ / /

Note 1: (Exceptions) couple, double, trouble, young, cousin, southern, country, touch /ə/; could, would, should /ʌ/; poultry, boulder, shoulder, soul /ow/; thou, thousand, trousers /aw/.
B. Patterns for ow

To predict /ow/ from stressed ow, the ow must be in the Key, have at least two consonant letters before it, and have no consonants after it. Otherwise, ow predicts /aw/. Unstressed ow is still fits the general pattern, VV = name /ow/, (e.g. shálloW)

snow   CCów• = name /ow/                 now   òw = /aw/

a. Underline the Key of each word.
b. Write out the vowel quality pattern of the ow.
c. Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.

E.g. blowing  CCów• = name /ow/  5. flowed  ________________ / / E.g. bowels   òw = /aw/ /aw/  6. disavów  ________________ / / 1. window  ________________ / / 7. shádóws  ________________ / / 2. crows  ________________ / / 8. growling  ________________ / / 3. crowds  ________________ / / 9. growing  ________________ / / 4. flówèred  ________________ / / 10. mínnow  ________________ / /

Note 2: Past participles: blown, flown, grown, known, thrown /ow/; Others: brow, plow /aw/; bow, bowl, below, low, mow, owe, own, sow, row, tow /ow/; knowledge /aʊ /.

C. Review of au, aw, eu, ew, ou, ow and oo Patterns

a. Underline the Key of each word.
b. Write out the vowel quality pattern Vu, Vw, or oo spelling.
c. Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.

E.g. schooling  óó = /uw/ / uw / 5. álóf  ________________ / /
E.g. pounced  óún = /aw/ / aw / 6. élbóws  ________________ / /
1. pówèred  ________________ / / 7. slew  ________________ / /
2. gnawing  ________________ / / 8. aeronautics  ________________ / / 3. néutéred  ________________ / / 9. álóud  ________________ / /
4. scóundrél  ________________ / / 10. nóugáit  ________________ / /