

10 Phonetic Rules

1. When a vowel is followed by a single consonant, the vowel is short
met hit Ron van
2. When a vowel is followed by two consonants, the vowel is short
Jump milk hunt left dent vast
3. When a vowel stands alone the vowel is usually long
Me no be so she
Exceptions ma pa to two
4. When there are two vowels in a small (common) word, the second vowel is silent and the first vowel is long
Hope sale wide crime code flame
Note: 'e' is silent at the end of all common words except; be, he, she, me, and we
5. When there are two adjacent vowels, the second vowel is silent and the first vowel is long.
Boat gain bee float woe fruit
There are seven kinds of adjacent vowels
Ai ea ee oa oe ui eu
Aim eat bee oat toe fruit blue
Bail beat feel boat foe suit clue
Gain tea bleed road Joe bruit true
Exception (a and i) 'ai' are always adjacent vowels and follow the above rule with the exception of: again, against, plaid, aisle and said
6. *ar* – Italian a
when an 'a' is followed by an 'r', the 'a' is usually given the Italian a sound as in pa or ma
far car tar start harm barn
7. *are* – circumflex a
when an 'a' is followed by an 're' the 'a' is usually given the circumflex a sound. The sound is similar to the long a sound
fare care bare stare share glare
8. and 9. *or* – circumflex o
when an 'o' is followed by and 'r' or 're', the 'o' is usually given the circumflex 'o' sound. The sound is similar to the long 'o' sound
corn born form nor horse sort
store more core pore spore fore
10. *ur* – circumflex u
when either an 'e', 'i', or 'u' are followed by and 'r' all are given the same circumflex 'ur' sound as in fur.
ur – fur hurt furl curl burst
er – her fern Bert pert herd
ir – fir girl bird skirt first