

ACTION PHONICS VOWEL PATTERNS & SOUNDS & SYLLABLE TYPES

These patterns represent frequently used spelling patterns in the English Language. While these spelling patterns help figure out many words, there are many exceptions to the patterns. Therefore, a reader often needs to try other sound possibilities and to figure out words from the context, or find out the word some other way.

9 or 99 = consonant letter/s 9 9 9 = syllable or word * = pattern with more than one sound

Pattern	Sound	Key Words
1. Closed Syllables		
9 o 9	/ə/	odd, hot, box
9 i 9	/i/	icky, sit, igloo
9 a 9	/a/	apple, had, am
9 u 9	/u/	up, cut, mud
9 e 9	/e/	Ed, wet, red
2. Silent E Syllables		
9 a 9 e	/ə/	ace, make, came
9 e 9 e	/e/	Pete, these, eke
9 i 9 e	/i/	ice, hide, like
9 u 9 e*	/u/, /oo/	cute, tune, June *rule
9 o 9 e*	/ə/	home, rode
	/u/	come, love, done
3. Open Syllables*		
9 a	/ə/	acorn, baby, table
9 e	/e/	me, meter, secret
9 i	/i/	hi, silent tiger
9 u	/u/	unicorn, music
9 o	/ə/	open, solo
4. R-Controlled Syllables		
9 ar	like word are	car, jar, art
9 or	like word or	or, fork, sort
9 er	/ɛr/	her, fern
9 ir	/ɛr/	irk, shirt, first
9 ur	/ɛr/	hurt, urn, nurse

*italicized parts are not open syllables

(2) Silent E (with R as the consonant)		
9 are	like word air	care, share, dare
9 ore	like word or	store, more, bore
9 ere	like word ear	here, mere
9 ire	/ɪr/	fire, wire, Ire(land)
9 ure	/ɪr/ , /oor/	pure, (ma)ture
Pattern	Sound	Key Words
5. Vowel Combination Syllables		
9 ee 9	/e/	eel, feed, see
9 oa 9	/ə/	oak, boat, soap
9 ay 9	/ə/	day, play
9 ai 9	/ə/	rain, nail
9 oo 9 *	/oo/	moon, school
	/oo/	look, wood, good
9 ow 9 *	/ə/	row, tow
	/ow/,	how, cow, tower
9 ea 9 *	/e/	eat, meat, bean
	/e/	head, treasure
	/ə/	great, break
9 ew 9	/oo/, /ə/	new, dew, pew
9 ie 9 *	/i/	pie, cries
	/e/	chief, niece
9 oi 9	/oy/	boil, oil, noise
9 oy	/oy/	boy, soy, loyal
9 aw	/aw/	awe, awful, straw