

# Vowel Location and Spelling Variations

This chart organizes vowel sounds by their placement: at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of words. For each position, you'll find the most common spelling patterns along with examples. This resource is designed to help educators recognize the predictable patterns of vowel spelling in English.

Vowel Sound	Beginning	Middle	End
/ă/	'a-' add	'a' cat	
/ĕ/	'e-' edge	'e' bed  'ea' head	
/ĭ/	'i-' itch	'i' sit	
/ŏ/	'o-' odd	'o' not	
/ŭ/	'u-' up	'u' nut	
/ā/	'a-' acorn  'ai-' aim	'a_e' plate  'ai' rain  'ea' break	'-ay' stay

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/ē/	<p>'e-' even</p> <p>'e_e' eve</p> <p>'ee-' eel</p> <p>'ea-' each</p>	<p>'e_e' these</p> <p>'ea' beach</p> <p>'ee' sleep</p>	<p>'-e' be</p> <p>'-ey' key</p> <p>'-ea' pea</p> <p>'-ee' see</p>
/ī/	<p>'i-' idle</p> <p>'i-' ice</p>	<p>'i_e' dime</p> <p>'i' spider</p> <p>'igh' night</p> <p>'y' cycle</p>	<p>'-igh' high</p> <p>'-y' fry</p> <p>'-ie' pie</p>
/ō/	<p>'o-' open</p> <p>'o_e' ode</p> <p>'oa-' oat</p> <p>'ow-' own</p>	<p>'o_e' rope</p> <p>'ow' flown</p> <p>'oa' groan</p>	<p>'-oe' doe</p> <p>'-ow' crow</p>

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/oo/	'oo-' ooze	'oo' bloom  'u_e' tune  'u' student  'ou' soup  'ui' suit	'-oo' zoo  '-o' who  '-ew' flew  '-ue' glue
/yū/	'u_e' use	'u_e' cute  'ue' fuel  'u' pupil	'-ew' nephew  '-ue' rescue
/ōō/		'oo' book  'u' put  'o' women  'ou' could	

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<b>/aw/</b>	<b>'au-'</b> auto	<b>'au'</b> haul	<b>'-aw'</b> jaw
	<b>'aw-'</b> awful	<b>'aw'</b> dawn	
		<b>'a'</b> call	
		<b>'ough'</b> bought	
<b>/oi/</b>	<b>'oi-'</b> oil	<b>'oi'</b> soil	<b>'-oy'</b> joy
	<b>'oy-'</b> oyster	<b>'oy'</b> loyal	
<b>/ow/</b>	<b>'ou-'</b> out	<b>'ou'</b> mound	<b>'-ow'</b> how
	<b>'ow-'</b> owl	<b>'ow'</b> crown	
<b>/er/</b>	<b>'ir-'</b> irk	<b>'er'</b> fern	<b>'-er'</b> her
	<b>'ur-'</b> urge	<b>'ir'</b> bird	<b>'-ur'</b> fur
		<b>'ur'</b> burn	<b>'-ir'</b> sir
			<b>'-or'</b> odor
			<b>'-ar'</b> cellar

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/or/	'or-' <i>order</i>	'or' <i>cork</i>	'-or' <i>for</i>  '-ore' <i>more</i>
/ar/	'ar-' <i>arch</i>	'ar' <i>harm</i>  'ear' <i>heart</i>	'-ar' <i>bar</i>
/ə/ (schwa)	'a-' <i>about</i>  'e-' <i>erase</i>  'o-' <i>offend</i>	'a' <i>instant</i>  'e' <i>chicken</i>  'i' <i>fossil</i>  'o' <i>lemon</i>  'u' <i>circus</i>  'y' <i>vinyl</i>  'ou' <i>jealous</i>	'-a' <i>sofa</i>