

Long and Short Vowels

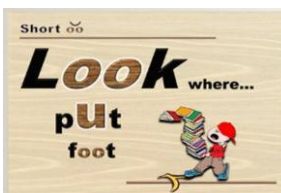
Pictures from Easier English for Dyslexics ebook series

Long vowel sounds for A, E, I, O and U are the same as the letter names. Long sounds are held longer than the short vowel sounds. Short vowel sounds are made toward the back of the mouth and their sound is cut short compared to long vowels.

Say each long and short vowel sound below and feel the difference.

Long _____

Short _____



Vowel Sounds Not Long or Short

Here are four vowel sounds not called long or short. Some have spelling patterns that can be tricky. Say the sound each picture represents.

Notice that the AW sound is similar to short O sound but is made with a more rounded mouth and more tense lips.



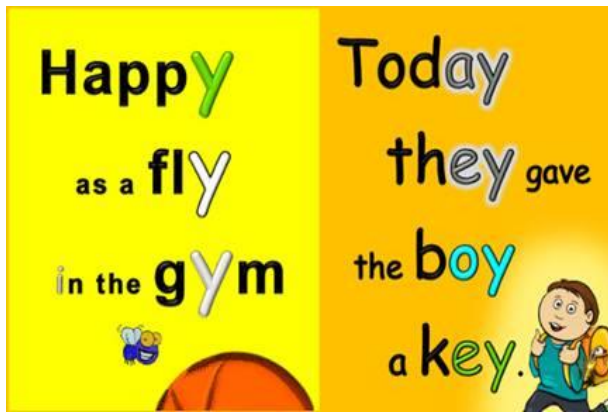
Compare AW sound to short O sound.



Copycat Sounds: Schwa and Y Vowel

To simplify letter sound review, schwa sound (short U) and Y vowel sounds are first introduced in *Easier English 1: All the Sounds in English* which reviews spelling patterns for each sound. Most of these sounds are not additional sounds; they copycat other vowel sounds. Copycat vowel sounds using W are also included in *Easier English 1*.

Those having difficulty easily saying/remembering all the sound code might be better off not focusing on the two pictures below until they feel comfortable saying the sound or sounds connected to the other pictures.



Single-letter Y vowel sounds can be long E sound in *happy*, long I sound in *fly*, or short I sound in *gym*.

Two-letter Y vowel sounds can be long A sound in *today* and *they*, OI/OY sound in *boy*, or long E sound in *key*.



Vowels A, E, I, O and U can be schwa sound in many words with unaccented syllables such as the final A in *ninja* and the first and final A in *banana*.

Notice the upside down backwards 'e' in the picture on the ninja's body. Pronunciation guides use this symbol for the schwa sound. It's like the vowel sound in 'yum'.

Schwa is the most common vowel sound in English. Betcha first grade teacher didn't tell you that!