



Reading On The Move

How To Say It

Dictionary Skills: Pronunciation

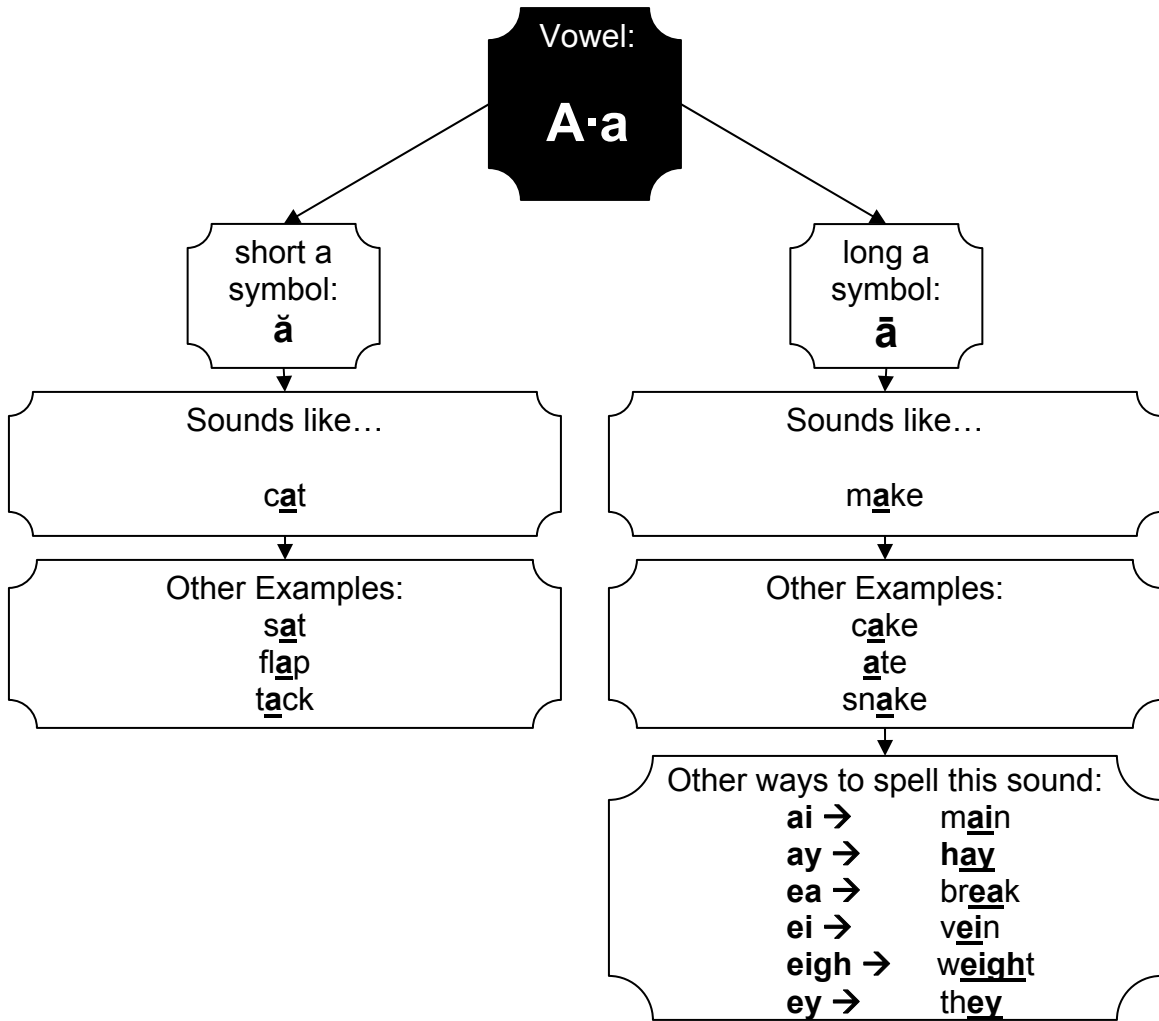
In this lesson, you will learn how to ***pronounce***, or say, words correctly.

For example, the word *brake* looks like this in the dictionary:

brake (brāk)

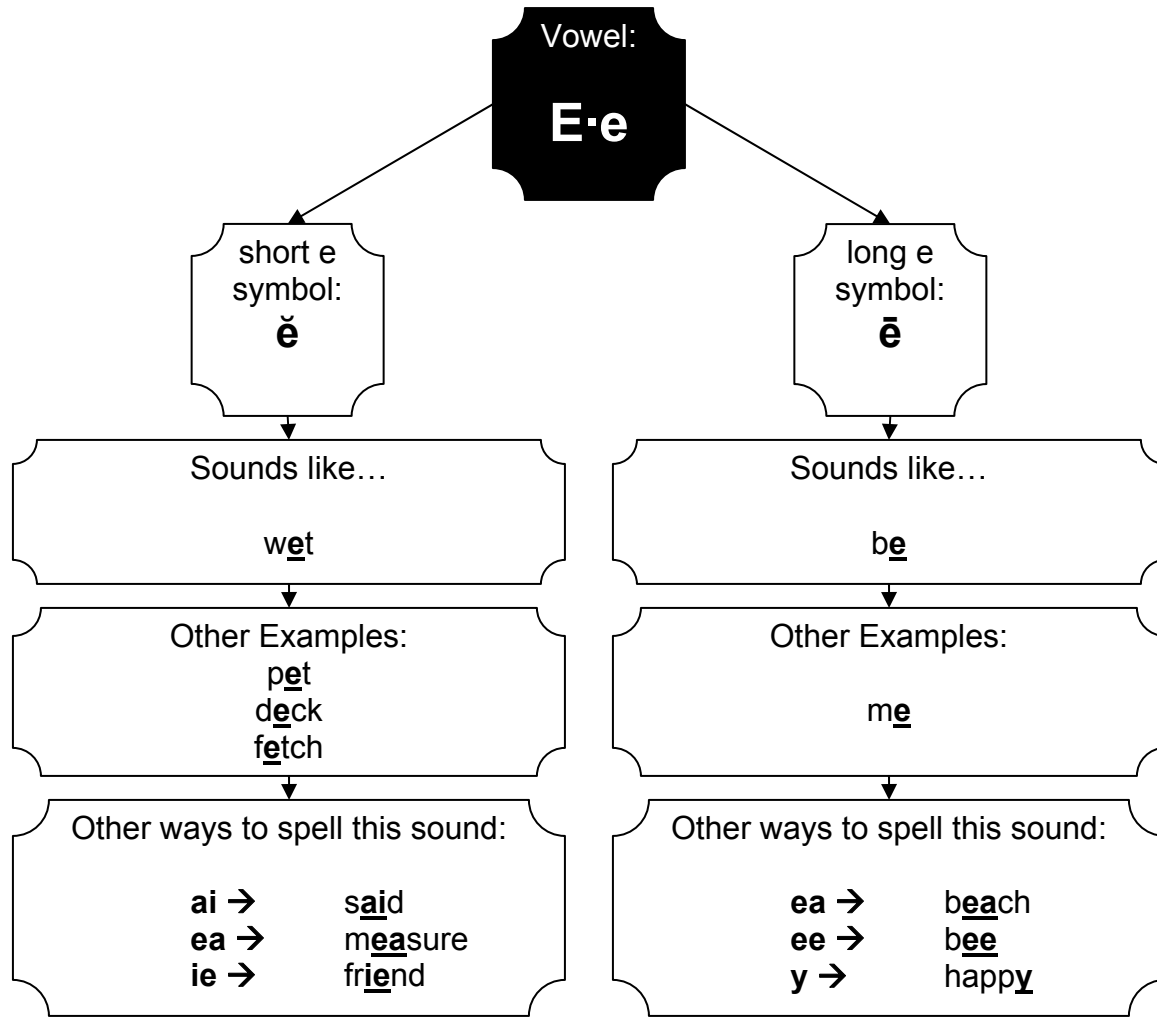
The letters in the () are the standard symbols for how to say the word *brake*. They are the key to the pronunciation (how to say a word). On the following pages, you will learn how ***vowels*** can create different sounds. Vowels are the letters A (a), E (e), I (i), O (o), and U (u). The circled letters in the alphabet below are vowels. The rest of the letters are called consonants.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z



Decide whether each word below has a *short a* or *long a* sound. Write the correct symbol on the line provided. The first one is done for you.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| <u>ä</u> 1. tap | _____ 6. stand |
| _____ 2. sad | _____ 7. pain |
| _____ 3. mistake | _____ 8. stay |
| _____ 4. hey | _____ 9. eight |
| _____ 5. attack | _____ 10. dash |



In the word list below, circle the words that have a short e sound and underline the words that have a long e sound. The first two are done for you.

11.

set

see

tree

funny

pleasure

bench

pea

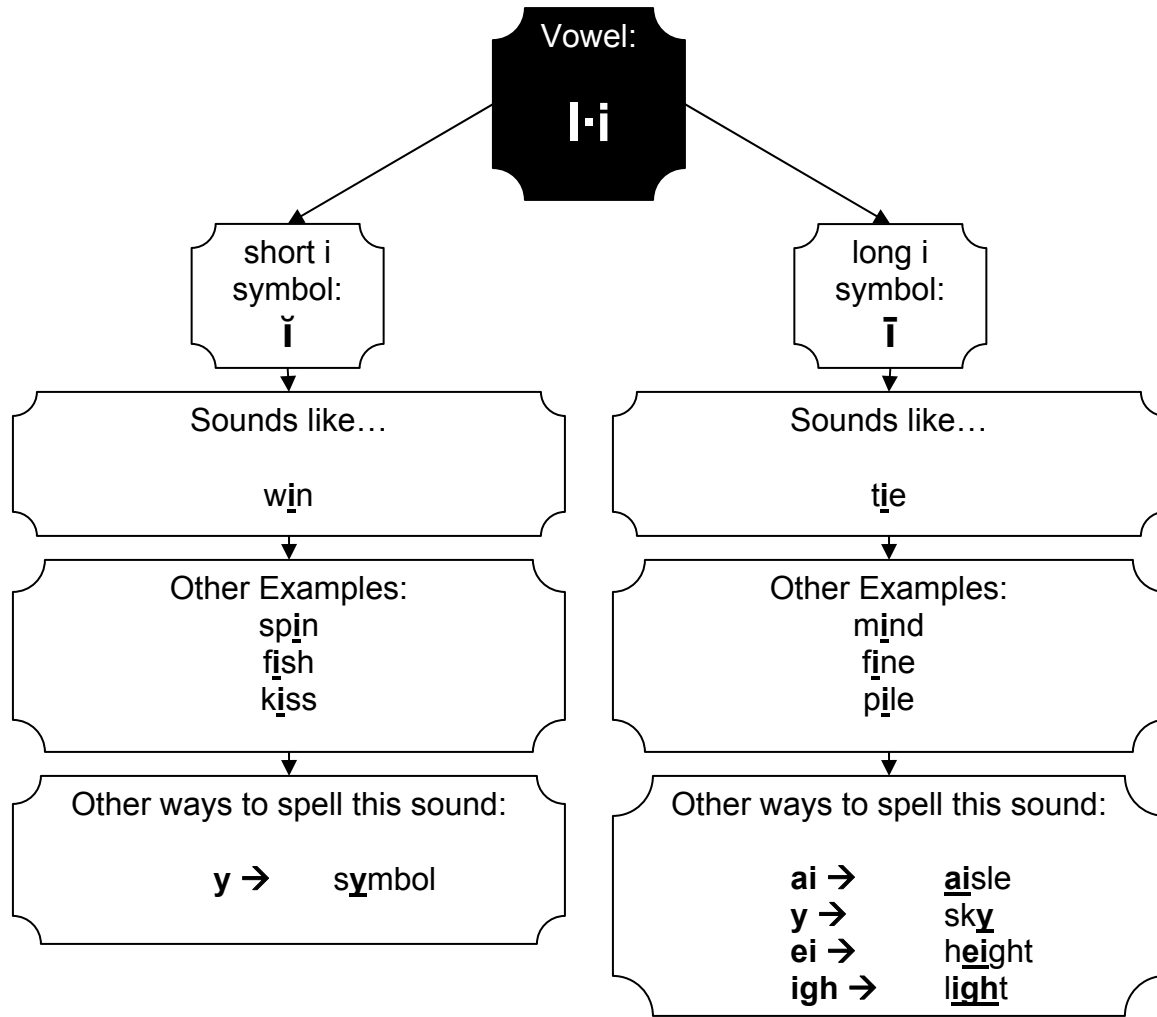
neck

mend

peach

again

end

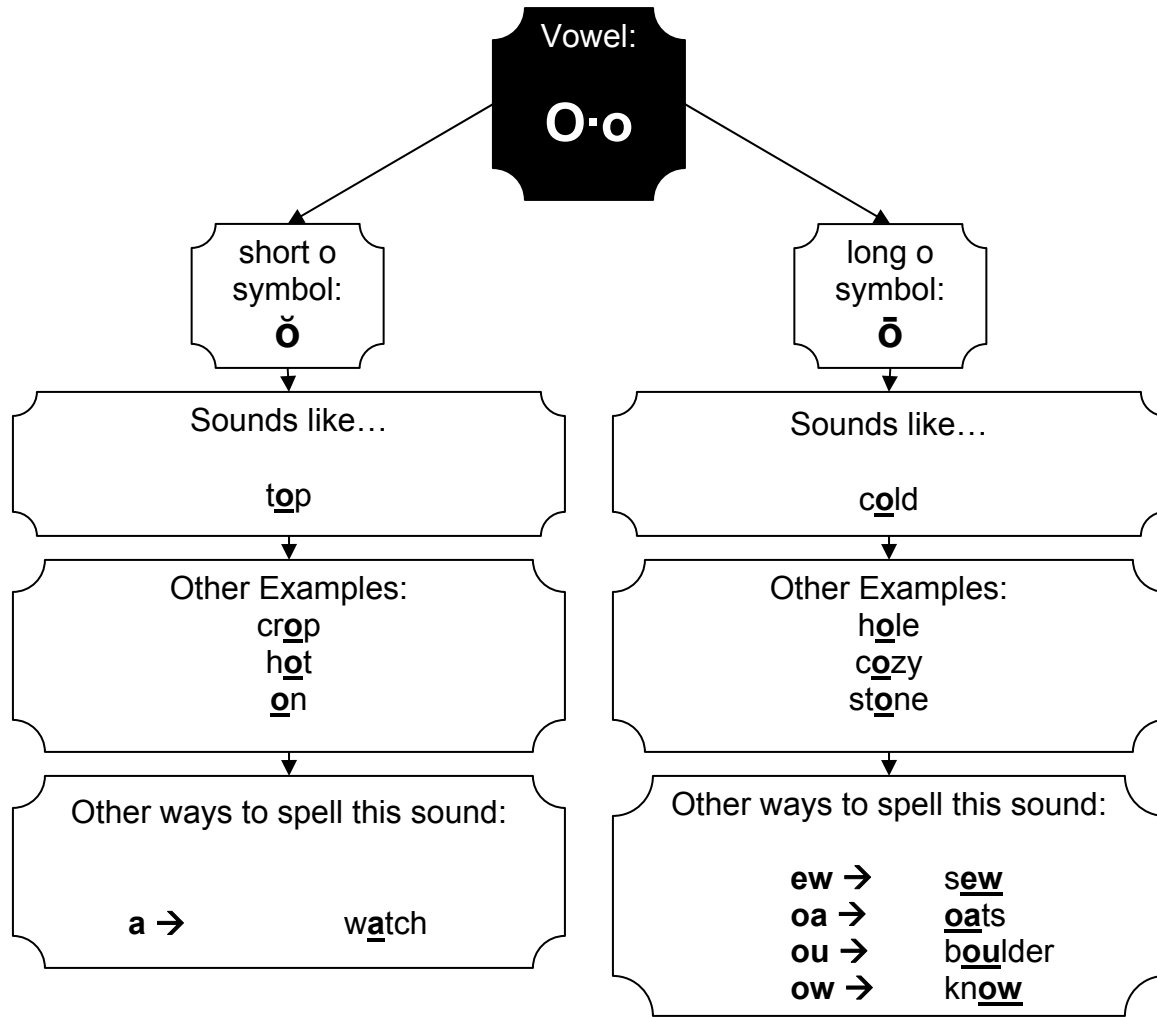


Write the words from the word bank under the correct column based on whether the word has a *short i* or *long i*. The first one is done for you.

12.

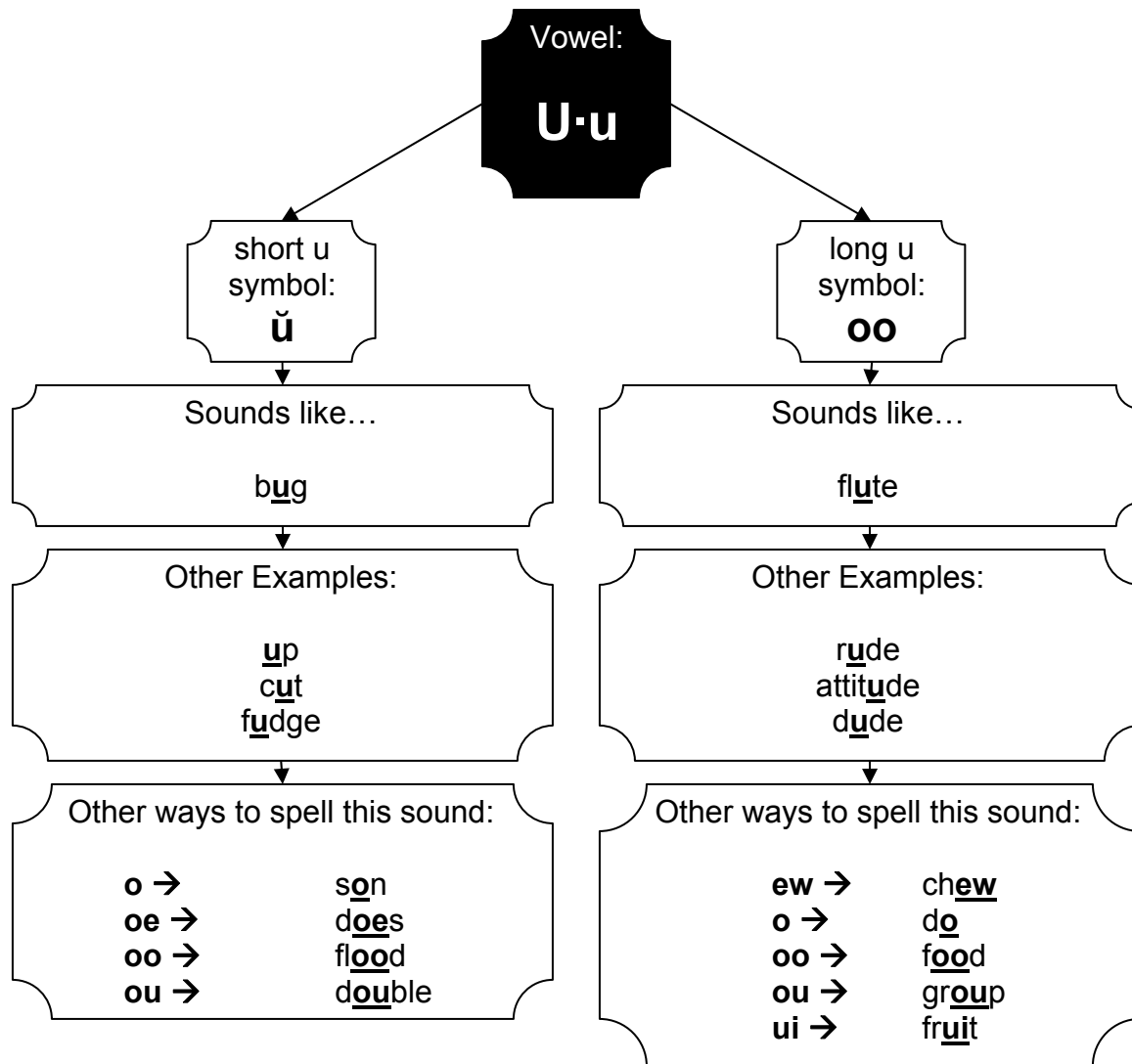
Word Bank	
mine	fight
bright	spike
list	whistle
myth	winter
kill	delight

Short i	Long i
	mine



Rewrite the words below using the correct pronunciation symbol. The first one is done for you.

- 13. boat bōt
- 14. stop
- 15. shoulder
- 16. how
- 17. pot
- 18. bone



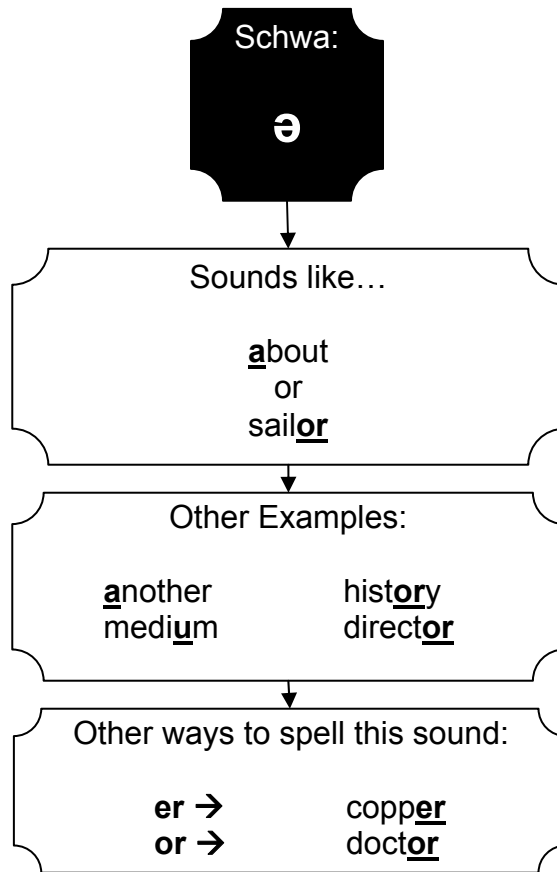
Decide which group of words is a short u or a long u. Write the correct symbol on the line.

— **19.**

— **20.**

A **schwa** (sh-wa) sound is when a vowel makes the sound “uh” or “er” instead of its short or long sound.

For example: season . . . we say “seasun” not “seasOn”
 able . . . we say “abull” not “abEL”

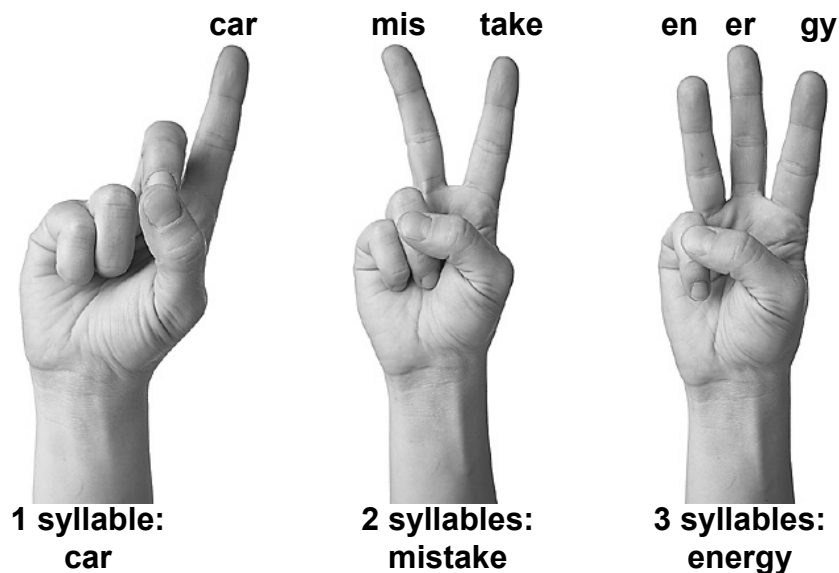


Write five (5) words that make the *schwa* sound.

21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____

Another important part of pronouncing a word correctly is knowing where to put stress in a word. **Syllables** are chunks of sound that make up words. Each syllable, or chunk, is one “beat.” For example, the word “break” has one beat, or syllable. The word “broken” has two beats, or syllables. The syllables can be broken down like this: *bro-ken*. Almost every syllable contains a vowel or vowel sound. Along with the pronunciation, the dictionary breaks words down into syllables. There are a few different ways dictionaries can show the syllables. Some words simply have a space in them (*brōk ən*), some words have a dash (*brōk-ən*), and some words use a dot (*brōk·ən*). Since each dictionary is a little different, there is a guide in the front of each dictionary explaining the symbols used.

One way to count syllables is to say the word out loud and count the syllables on your fingers. Look at the example below:



Let's practice counting syllables. Say each word out loud and count each syllable. Write the number of syllables each word has on the line provided. The first one is done for you.

 3 26. animal

 27. bright

 28. library

 29. master

 30. negative

 31. popular

 32. silly

 33. first

 34. sister

 35. wonderful

an i mal



Read each sentence below. As you read, write the number of syllables above each word. The first one is done for you.

- 1 1 1 2
 36. My name is Marta.
37. Please hand me my gloves.
38. Pass me the ball!
39. When you are finished, you may go home.
40. I need to buy milk, eggs, and oatmeal.
41. Would you like to join me for breakfast tomorrow?

Another thing the dictionary tells us is how to stress each syllable. In English, in words with more than one syllable, one syllable is said with more force than the other syllables. The syllable said with the most force, or the loudest, is called the **stressed syllable**. The syllable that is said the quietest is called the **unstressed syllable**. For example, the stressed syllable in “broken” is *BRO* and the unstressed syllable is *ken*. You pronounce the word *BROken*. In the dictionary the stressed syllables are shown with an apostrophe ('): *brō k 'ən*.

Example:

Word:	Syllable stress:	How it looks in the dictionary:
teacher	TEACHer	teach-er (tē'chər)
important	imPORTant	im-por-tant (im pōrt'nt)
demand	deMAND	de-mand (di mand')

Use what you have learned about pronunciation and a dictionary to fill in the missing information in the table below:

Word:	Syllable stress:	How it looks in the dictionary:
happy	HAPpy	
friendly	FRIENDly	
imagine		
ruin	RUin	
soft		
	PHO to graph	
battle		
revise		
	WHISTle	
familiar		

8 → Answer Key

- 1. ă
- 2. ă
- 3. ā
- 4. ā
- 5. ă

- 6. ă
- 7. ā
- 8. ā
- 9. ā
- 10. ă

11.

- | | | |
|-------|----------|-------|
| set | pleasure | mend |
| see | bench | peach |
| tree | pea | again |
| funny | neck | end |

12. short i

long i

- list
- whistle
- myth
- winter
- kill

- mine**
- fight
- bright
- spike
- delight

- 13. bōt
- 14. stōp
- 15. shōlder
- 16. hōw

- 17. pōt
- 18. bōn
- 19. oo
- 20. ŭ

21-25. All words should have an “uh” sound in them.

- 26. 3
- 27. 1
- 28. 3
- 29. 2

- 30. 3
- 31. 3
- 32. 2
- 33. 1

- 34. 2
- 35. 3

1 1 1 2
36. My name is Marta.

1 1 1 1 1
37. Please hand me my gloves.

1 1 1 1
38. Pass me the ball!

1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1
39. When you are finished, you may go home.

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2
40. I need to buy milk, eggs, and oatmeal.

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 3
41. Would you like to join me for breakfast tomorrow?

Word:	Syllable stress:	How it looks in the dictionary:
happy	HAPpy	hap'ē
friendly	FRIENDly	friend'ly
imagine	iMAGine	i maj'in
ruin	RUin	roo'en
soft	soft	sōft
photograph	PHOTograph	fōt'ə graf
battle	BATTle	bat'l
revise	reVISE	ri vīz'
whistle	WHISTle	hwis'əl
familiar	faMILiar	fə mil'yər