



# PRONOUNCE ME- I'm Poetry!

 EAE Learning objectives for this lesson 

Learn more about how to pronounce vowels in English. Practice.

## Activity One - Answer the questions with your partner or teacher

1. Do you find you struggle often with English pronunciation?
2. Do you feel confident about your pronunciation?
3. How important do you think pronunciation is, compared to other skills?
4. Do you enjoy reading poetry in English or in French?
5. How do you think you can improve your pronunciation?



## Activity Two - Poem: The Chaos

This poem contains some difficult words to pronounce! Can you read it?

**D**earest *creature* in *Creation*,  
 Studying English pronunciation,  
 I will teach you in my verse  
 Sounds like *corpse*, *corps*, *horse* and *worse*.  
 It will keep you, *Susy*, *busy*,  
 Make your *head* with *heat* grow dizzy;  
*Tear* in eye your dress you'll *tear*.  
 So shall I! Oh, hear my *prayer*,  
*Pray*, console your loving poet,  
 Make my coat look *new*, dear, *sew* it?  
 Just compare *heart*, *beard* and *heard*,  
*Dies* and *diet*, *lord* and *word*,  
*Sword* and *sward*, *retain* and *Britain*,

(Mind the latter, how it's written!)  
 But be careful how you speak,  
 Say *break* and *steak*, but *bleak* and *streak*,  
*Previous*, *precious*; *fuchsia*, *via*;  
*Pipe*, *snipe*, *recipe* and *choir*,  
*Cloven*, *oven*; *how* and *low*;  
*Script*, *receipt*; *shoe*, *poem*, *toe*,  
 Hear me say devoid of trickery,  
*daughter*, *laughter*, and *Terpsichore*  
 Finally, which rhymes with *enough*?  
*Though*, *through*, *plough*, or *dough*, or *cough*?  
*Hiccough* has the sound of cup  
 My advice is to give up



**Activity Three - Vowel sounds in English.**

**I think that when you work on it  
 You'll find vowel sounds don't always fit  
 With your idea of what makes sense  
 They don't, and it's frustrating, hence,  
 To know that bird will rhyme with word  
 That boot and fruit or foot and put  
 Or fork and walk and feet and seat,  
 In vowel sounds they all can meet.  
 They match in sound but not in spelling  
 And why that is there is no telling!**

**So** as you can see in the poem above, spelling is not always a good guide to pronunciation. Vowels can be pronounced in different ways. When you say the words of the alphabet for example, I or E have the long vowel sound, but in words like **'wet'**, or **'hit'**, they are pronounced with a short vowel sounds.

However, sometimes spelling can help you know how to pronounce something.



An e at the end of a word can make a vowel sound different - for example -

**Cat, cane.**

**Hat, hate**

An r at the end of a word can also make a vowel sound different -

**Fat, Far**

**Bat, Bar**

The letter O can be pronounced in various different ways

**Shot**

If there is an r after the letter O

**Short**

If there is a vowel

**Shoe**

Y or I can change the sound of O

**Boil**

**Point**

**Boy**

**Oil**

The letter R changes a lot of vowel sounds and we don't always pronounce it (depending on where we are from, our regional accent).

**Fur**

**Heard**

**Work**

**Her**

**Shirt**

**Bird**

**Burn**

**Word**

**Birth**

**While it is good to be aware of these patterns,** The best way to learn how things are pronounced is to be exposed as much as possible to spoken language, to adopt a relaxed attitude and let it sink in!

**Activity Four - Vowel sounds in Poetry.**

Poets often play with vowel sounds to create rhythm by guiding the reader to stress certain words. You can do the same, when you are presenting your ideas it can be interesting to repeat certain vowel sounds. It makes what you are saying more catchy! For example think about the expression "there's no place like home". In poetry this is called assonance.

One of the most famous examples is William Wordsworth's "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" (1804):

*I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*



Another example of assonance is in Robert Frost's "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening" (1922):

*He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.  
The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep."*



Edgar Allen Poe frequently employed assonance, including in "The Raven" (1845):

*Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,  
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore —  
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,  
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.*

**Do you have a particular poet you admire?**

**Activity Five - Rhyming riddles** - Choose some rhyming words to complete the sentences (not all of the words are used!)

**Word bank:** pear, choir, word, dozen, laugh, here, cheese, bear, sign, near, rare, cousin, half, fine, please, we're, hire, share

**1 Give some of your lunch to a panda**

\_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_

**2 The number of eggs purchased by your aunt's son:**

My \_\_\_\_\_ bought a \_\_\_\_\_ eggs

**3 An uncommon fruit:**

A \_\_\_\_\_

**4 You and I have arrived at this place**

\_\_\_\_\_

**5 A polite request for some roquefort**

Could I have some \_\_\_\_\_?

**6 The billboard is quite good**

It's a \_\_\_\_\_

**7 We should rent a group of singers for the party**

Let's \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_

**8 Make your own sentences with the leftover words!**





**Activity Five - Vowel sounds**

Long A	Long E	Long I	Long O	Long U	Short A	Short E	Short I	Short O	Short U	AUW	OUW
base	cheek	buy	home	blue	ant	bed	chick	bomb	rough	bought	brown
steak	key	crime	know	boot	ask	head	dim	box	some	call	count
they	dream	fly	dough	chew	back	said	his	hot	duck	saw	cow

**Add the following words to the correct columns:**

Day, mat, through, pat, red, fox, shut, hawk, out, quick, meet, why, blow, made, scene, spice, throw, pick, Tom, mug, wall, wow, bread

Can you add some of your own?

**Activity Six - Short and long 'oo'.** Place the following words into the correct columns, based on the pronunciation of the word!

**food book cook foot moon noon roof room good school look  
hook stood took soon wood too zoo zoom wool**



<p><b>Column 1</b> Short oo, like "book"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cook</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	<p><b>Column 2</b> Long oo, like "food"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moon</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>
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**Activity Seven - Expressions with impact.** The following expressions are catchy because they rhyme.

1. Which have you heard before?
2. Which do you like?
3. Explain what they mean.
4. Use them in an example sentence.

- **Take Time to make time.**
- **Shop 'till you drop.**
- **It's make or break time.**
- **Walk the talk.**
- **See you later alligator, in a while crocodile.**
- **Don't leave me high and dry!**
- **Fair and square.**
- **Make or break!**



**Activity Eight - Can you solve these riddles?**

**1/**

I have an eye but cannot see  
You'll head inside when you see me.  
*What am I?*

**2/**

I can be cracked  
I can be played  
I can be told  
I can be made  
*What am I?*



How far have you got? learning objectives



**easy access english** LEVEL 1 LEVEL 2 LEVEL 3 LEVEL 4 LEVEL 5 LEVEL 6 LEVEL 7 LEVEL 8 LEVEL 9 LEVEL 10

Fill in the bars to show your progress