

Special Wikipedia Notes

¹ (a, e(h), i(h), o, u(h), uu) are checked vowels, meaning never occurring at the end of a word or before a vowel. When a checked vowel is followed by a consonant and a stressed vowel, which is rare nonetheless, it is acceptable in some cases to attribute the following consonant to the same syllable as the checked vowel, as in bal-AY. However, when the following consonant is a voiceless plosive pronounced with aspiration (a slight delay in the following vowel), it must be attributed to the same syllable as the following vowel, as in ta-TOO, because tat-OO may result in a different pronunciation than intended (compare "whatever" whot-EV-ər, wherein (t) is not aspirated). Similarly, when a vowel is followed by (s), one or more consonants, and a stressed vowel, the syllabification must be retained, as in fruh-STRAY-shən, because frus-TRAY-shən may result in a different pronunciation than intended.

² (e) in syllable-final positions may be respelled eh instead of e when otherwise it may be misinterpreted as another sound.

³ ew and ewr are for when the sound takes place right after a consonant within the same syllable. When it begins a syllable (e.g. "youth", "Europe"), use yoo(r).

⁴ This is respelled eye when it begins a syllable and otherwise y. When y is followed by a consonant within the same syllable, place an e after the consonant as necessary: "price" PRYSE, "tight" TYTE.

⁵ Found in syllable-final positions may be respelled ih instead of i when otherwise it may be misinterpreted as another sound.

⁶ Respelling "ow" could prove problematic as there are a variety of monosyllabic words spelled with "ow" and pronounced with (oh): blow, blown, bow, bowl, flow, flown, glow, grow, grown, growth, growths, low, mow, mown, own, row, show, slow, snow, sow, sown, stow, strow, throw, tow, and trow. There is no universal solution to this problem and so respelling a word including "ow" may be best avoided altogether.

⁷ In syllable-final positions is respelled uh instead of u to better distinguish it from (uu).

⁸ In syllable-final positions is respelled tch instead of ch to better distinguish it from (k) and (kh).

⁹ (g) may be respelled gh instead of g when otherwise it may be misinterpreted as (j).

¹⁰ Is respelled nk rather than ngk, since the assimilation is mandatory, except beyond a syllable boundary: "tinker" TING-kər.

¹¹ (s) may be respelled ss instead of s when otherwise it may be misinterpreted as /z/: "ice" EYESS, "tense" TENSS (compare eyes, tens).