

The English Alphabetic Code

simple code		complex code							
phonemes	graphemes key words key pictures								
/s/	 snake	 glass	 palace	 house	 cents	 city	 bicycle	 scissors	 castle
/a/	 apple								 pseudonym
/t/	 teddy	 letter	 skipped						
/i/	 insect	 cymbals							

/p/	 pan	 puppet						
/n/	 net	 bonnet	 knot	 gnome	 engine			
/k/	 cat	 kit	 duck	 chameleon	 bouquet	 plaque		
/e/	 egg	 head	 said					
/h/	 hat							

/r/	 rat	 arrow	 write	 rhinoceros				
/m/	 map	 hammer	 thumb	 columns	 welcome			
/d/	 dig	 puddle	 rained					
/g/	 girl	 juggle	 guitar	 ghost	 catalogue			
/o/	 orange	 watch	 qualify	 salt				

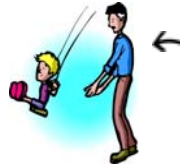
/u/	 umbrella	 son	 touch	 thoroughfare			
/l/	 ladder	 shell					
/ul/		 kettle	 pencil	 hospital	 camel		
/f/	 feathers	 cliff	 photo	 laugh			
/b/	 bat	 rabbit	 buildings				

/j/	 jug	 cabbage	   gerbil giraffe gymnast	 fridge				
/y/	 yawn							
/ai/	 aid	 tray	 table	 sundae	 cakes	 prey	 eight	 break
/w/	 web	 wheel						
/oa/	 oak	 bow	 piano	 oboe	 rope	 dough	 plateau	

/igh/	 tie	 night	 behind	 fly	 bike	 eider		
/ee/	 eel	 eat	 emu	 *sunny	 concrete	 key	 chief	 sardines
/or/ or /aw/	 fork	 dawn	 sauce	 chalk	 oars	 door	 snore	 four
/z/	 zebra	 jazz	 fries	 cheese	 breeze	/or/ or /aw/		 wardrobe
/ng/	 gong	 jungle				 caught	 thought	 quarter

/ngk/	 ink							
/v/	 violin	 dove						
/oo/	 book	 shou <u>ld</u>						
/oo/	 moon	 blue	 flute	 crew	 fruit	 sou <u>p</u>	 move	 throu <u>gh</u>
/ks/	 fox	 books	 cakes	 ducks			/gz/	 ex <u>a</u> m

/ch/	 chairs	 patch					/chu/	 picture
/sh/	 sheep	 chef	 station	 magician	 admission			
/th/	 thistle							
/th/	 there							
/kw/	 queen							

/ou/	 ouch	 owl	 plough					
/oi/	 ointment	 toy						
/yoo/	 statue	 unicorn	 tube	 new	 pneumatic			
/er/	 mermaid	 birthday	 nurse	 earth	 world	 mixer	 humour	 theatre
/ar/	 artist	 father	 palm	 half	 calves			

/air/	 h air	 h are	 b ear	 wh ere					
/eer/	 d eer	 e ars	 ad here	 cash ier					
/zh/	 tele vision	 treas ure	 az ure	 cour gette	 coll age				

*-y, *-ey, *-ie as word endings are often pronounced between /i/ and /ee/. On this chart examples appear in the /ee/ row.

The complexities of the English Alphabetic Code include:

1. one sound (phoneme) can be represented by one, two, three or four letters: e.g. k, sh, ng, igh, eigh
2. one sound can be represented by different spellings (graphemes): e.g. /oa/ is represented by: o, oa, ow, oe, o-e, eau, ough
3. one spelling can represent multiple sounds: e.g. 'ough': /oa/ though, /or/ thought, /oo/ through, /ou/ plough, /u/ thorough

Key to the 12 units of Debbie Hepplewhite's Phonics International online synthetic phonics programme:

units 1-5	Mainly simple code with options to extend	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th		
6-12	/air/, /eer/, /zh/, split digraphs, complex code	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th

Debbie's programme introduces a simple code of at least one letter/s-sound correspondence for each of the 44+ sounds of speech of the English language. The programme then expands to teach further spelling and pronunciation variations of the complex Alphabetic Code.