

Spell and [s]ound

How to use your Spell and Sound English Chart: 3 simple steps to improve your English

I read an English word but don't know how to say it

Break down the word into sections containing vowels and consonants like this.

Step 1

For example the English word; **Caught** can be broken into

c - au - gh - t OR c - augh - t OR c - a - u - g - h - t

There might be a few options.

Step 2

Find the English IPA sound on your Spell and Sound English chart by matching up the letter or letter group. There might be a number of different options.

Your consonant Chart groups similar sounds by colour (or color).

Letter/letter group	c	ough	t
English IPA	[k] or [s] or [tʃ] or [ʃ]	[ɔ:]	[t] or [tʃ]

The correct sounds are in italics.

You might need to try a few different combinations. We know the "ough" makes one sound when we scan across the letter A. It's the only choice for those letters.

Words you have heard before but have forgotten how to pronounce are easy to re-remember when using your chart.

Words you are not familiar with might require a little trial and error, but by looking up the letter group and the sound it represents you will start to recognise the different English sounds and their spellings much faster than if you used a bilingual dictionary or a word pronunciation application alone.

Step 3

Combine the English IPA sounds in their correct order and pronounce the word.

k + ɔ: + t

Find out more about your Spell and Sound English Chart and listen to real English at <http://English.spellandsound.com>

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I *heard* an English word but don't know how to spell it

Step 1

Break down the word into individual sounds.

Step 2

Find the letter combination in your Chart that goes with the sound.

Can you guess which English word these sounds represent?

[b] + [r] + [au] + [n]

Letter/letter group options b/bb + r/rr/wr + ow/ou/ough + n/nn/kn/nne

The [b] sound can be spelled with either b or bb (starting consonants are single).

The [r] sound can be spelled with r or rr or wr (usually after a consonant, r is single).

The [au] sound can be spelled with ow or ou or ough

The [n] sound can be spelled with n or nn or nne or kn .

Step 3

Put the letters that you think represent each sound together.

Does it look correct? You can always check it.

Remember, *anything you have to work out on your own is learned more effectively than if you just looked it up.*

There is a little trial and error needed initially but with some practice, you'll be speaking like a natural in no time.

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