

LONG OR SHORT VOWELS

What is meant by long or short vowels?

Long vowels are the vowels that say their own names. Listen for the vowel sounds in these examples.

Long a is the vowel you hear in day, way, cake, gate

Long e is the vowel you hear in be, bee, me, we, three

Long i is the vowel sound you hear in I, tie, lie, my

Long o is the sound you hear in so, toe, no, go, snow

Long u is the sound you hear in blue, clue, Sue, you

Short vowel sounds do not say their names. Listen for their sounds in these examples.

Sho

Sho

Sho

Sho

Sho

Sho

Here

A vo

two

Exa

bug

A vo

vow

walk

ing,

the

first

go

Examples:

take,

read,

die,

stone,

tube,

people

Sometimes

the

letter

y or

w

acts

as

the

second

vowel

in

a

word.

So

the

first

vowel

is

long.

Examples:

play,

snow,

grow

BUT

not

all

vowels

follow

the

rules!

Here

are

some

words

that

don't

follow

the

rules.

These

words

have

short

vowel

sounds:

bread,

head,

sweat,

read

(past

tense),

health

These

words

have

long

vowel

sounds:

sang,

rang,

thank,

bank

These

words

have

a

silent

first

vowel

and

a

long

second

vowel:

field,

height.



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Examples: take, read, die, stone, tube, people

Sometimes the letter y or w acts as the **second vowel** in a word. So the first vowel is long.

Examples: play, snow, grow

BUT not all vowels follow the rules!

Here are some words that don't follow the rules.

These words have short vowel sounds: bread, head, sweat, read (past tense), health

These words have long vowel sounds: sang, rang, thank, bank

These words have a silent first vowel and a long second vowel: field, height.

Try this!

Answer the riddles.

1. I am a place to swim. I have a long a sound.

- a) pool
- b) pond
- c) lake

2. A frog and a bunny move like this short o word.

- a) hop
- b) hope
- c) hoop

- 3] I
- a] o
- b] r
- c] p



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