The BBC Pronunciation Unit provides pronunciations in written form using BBC Text Spelling — a respelling system based on English spelling conventions and mainly English sounds (with a few additions).

Syllables are separated by hyphens. Stressed syllables are given in CAPITALS.

### VOWELS

- **a** as in *hat*  
- **aa** as in *father*  
- **arr** as in *marry*  
- **ar** as in *bar*  
- **air** as in *hair*  
- **aw** as in *law*  
- **ay** as in *day*  
- **e** as in *get*  
- **err** as in *merry*  
- **ee** as in *street*  
- **eer** as in *deer*  
- **i** as in *bit*  
- **i** as in *ar*  
- **igh** as in *high, fire*  
- **ir** as in *mirror*  
- **o** as in *not*  
- **oh** as in *no*  
- **oo** as in *boat*  
- **oor** as in *poor*  
- **or** as in *corn*  
- **orr** as in *sorry*  
- **ow** as in *now*  
- **oy** as in *boy*  
- **u** as in *cup*  
- **uh** as in *cup*  
- **uhr** as in *cell*  
- **ur** as in *fur*  
- **urr** as in *hurry*  
- **uu** as in *books*  
- **ue** as in *vu*  
- **uey** as in *fauteuil*  
- **oe** as in *peu*  
- **oey** as in *fauteuil*  
- **ue** as in *Fünf*

- *(ng)* after a vowel indicates nasalization. Example from French *un bon vin blanc*: oe(ng) bo(ng) va(ng) blaa(ng).

### CONSONANTS

- **b** as in *bat*  
- **ch**, **tch** as in *church, catch*  
- **d** as in *day*  
- **f** as in *fit*  
- **g** as in *get*  
- **h** as in *hat*  
- **hl** as in *Welsh llan*  
- **j** as in *Jack*  
- **k** as in *king*  
- **kh** as in *Scottish loch*  
- **l** as in *leg*  
- **m** as in *man*  
- **n** as in *not*  
- **ng** as in *singer*  
- **nk** as in *thank*  
- **p** as in *pen*  
- **r** as in *red*  
- **s** as in *sit*  
- **sh** as in *ship*  
- **t** as in *top*  
- **th** as in *thin*  
- **dh** as in *there*  
- **v** as in *vet*  
- **w** as in *will*  
- **y** as in *yes*  
- **z** as in *zebra*  
- **zh** as in *measure*

Example: *pronunciation* would be respelt as *pruh-nun-si-AH-shuhn*.

**Pronunciation of R:**

Our respellings acknowledge word-final or pre-consonantal R (e.g. *hair, party*), pronounced in some accents of English (rhotic) but not in others (non-rhotic). Example: *Parker* is transcribed as PAR-kuhr, not PAA-kuh, and the rs will be pronounced or not according to the speaker's accent.

**Pronunciation of Y*:**

In Text Spelling, when *y* appears between a consonant and a vowel, it represents a glide (e.g. *beauty*: BYOO-ti; *dune*: dyoon; *few*: fyoo; *argue*: AR-gyoo; *Hugh*: hyoo; *music*: MYOO-zick, *manual*: MAN-yoo-uhl; *pew*: pyoo; *ensue*: in-SYOO; *tune*: tyoon; *view*: vyoo; *Zeus*: zyooss).

**Syllabification:**

The way words are broken into syllables in respelling is not an attempt to reflect actual syllabification. It is a tool to reinforce vowel pronunciations and to ensure the most intuitive transcription.

When a vowel is long, the following consonant will be placed after the hyphen: PEE-tuhr (*Peter*).

When a vowel is short, the consonant goes immediately after the vowel, before the hyphen: JEN-i (*Jenny*).