

A NEW PHONETIC ALPHABET

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T LIKE 'ALPHA', 'BRAVO', 'CHARLIE', ...

a mischievously misleading, ambiguous, phonetic alphabet using English homophones and given names

A

pref: ATE or AUBERGINE

letter: AITCH(H), ARE(R), AYE(I)

homophone: AIR(ERR, HEIR and EYRE), ATE(EIGHT,8-BALL), AWED(ODD), AISLE(I'LL and ISLE), AULD(OLD)

variants: AESTHETIC/ESTHETIC

silent initial letter: AESTHETE

analogue: CHEMICAL SYMBOL FOR SILVER (Ag) or GOLD (Au)

name: AARON(ERIN), AVA(EWA)

[misc.]: 'AU COURANT', AUBERGINE, AURA, AUTO(OTTO)

[note]: aural and oral although similar are pronounced differently

B

pref: BDELLIUM

silent initial letter: BDELLIUM

description: THE INSECT THAT MAKES HONEY (APIAN)

analogue: 300 in medieval Roman numerals [\[source\]](#)

[misc.]: BARYON NUMBER [\[source\]](#)

C

pref: CUE

letter: CUE(Q)

homophone: CEDE(SEED), CEILING(SEALING), CELL(SELL), CELLAR(SELLER), CHIC(SHEIK), CHUTE(SHOOT), CITE(SIGHT/SITE), CITY(SITEE), 'CLING ON'(KLINGON), CUE(KEW/QUEUE), CURD(KURD), COAL(KOHL), CHOIR(QUIRE), CENSOR(SENSOR), CENT(SENT/SCENT), COY(KOI) or CYMBAL(SYMBOL)

double letter phoneme: CHAI, CHARISMA, CHASM, CHORUS

variants: CURB/KERB, CASHMERE/KASHMIR?, CZAR/T SAR

analogue: (ONE) HUNDRED in Roman numerals

name: CAROL(KAROL), CATHERINE(KATHERINE), C. D.[as in C. D. Howe](SEEDY), CHAGAS DISEASE, CHER(SHARE), CHERYL(SHERYL), CHRIS(KRIS), CISCO Systems [computer networks company](SYSCO [food services corporation]), OR CYD [as in the late Cyd Charisse](SID)

[misc.]: CANINE, CEILDH, CELERY, CHIMERA, CHI (χ and X, [see also X](#)), or CIGAR

D**pref:** DJIN**homophone:** DJIN(GIN)**analogue:** FIVE HUNDRED in Roman numerals, PENNY/PENCE [\[source\]](#)**letter:** DOUBLE-U**name:** DJANGO**E****pref:** EWE OR EYE**letter:** EH(A), EKS(X), EWE(U), EYE(I)**homophone:** EYE(AYE), EARN(URN), EIGHT(ATE), EM (unit), EWE(YOU, YEW), ERR(AIR, HEIR, EYRE), EVES(YVES), EWER(YOUR/YOU'RE) or EX (unit)**variants:** ESTHETIC/AESTHETIC**analogue:** 250 in medieval Roman numerals [\[source\]](#), FORMER SPOUSE (ex-)**name:** ERIN(AARON), EULER (as in Leonhard Euler), EILEEN (when pronounced with an initial long-E), EWA(AVA) [[link to pronunciation note](#) (at www.pronouncenames.com)], EYRE (literary character and novel by Charlotte Brontë)**name:** EUGENE**[misc.]:** EAU-DE-COLOGNE, EFFLUENT, EIDER, ELBOW, ELEGIAC, ELEVATOR, EMBRACE, ENVY(NV), ESCALATOR, EUCALYPTUS (and EUKARYOTE and EUREKA etc.), EXCESS, EXPLAIN, EXQUISITE, EUTHANASIA('YOUTH IN ASIA'), (OR EARL?)**[note]:** Euston (the station) and Houston (the municipality) although similar are pronounced differently**F****pref:** FAZE**homophone:** FARO(PHARAOH), FAZE(PHASE), FELT(VELDT), FEW(PHEW), FIE(PHI), FILL(PHIL), FISH(PHISH), FLOCKS(PHLOX)**analogue:** CHEMICAL SYMBOL FOR IRON (Fe)**G****pref:** GNEISS**silent initial letter:** GNARL, GNAT, GNAW OR GNU**homophone:** GNEISS(NICE), GIBE(JIBE), GENES(JEANS), GYM(JIM) or GNU(NEW/KNEW)**variants:** GAOL/JAIL, GEL/JELL**name:** GENNIFER [as in Gennifer Flowers] (JENNIFER), GEOFFREY(JEFFREY), GERI(JERRY)[as in Geri Halliwell], GERRY(JERRY)[as in Gerry Adams], GILLES(JILL) [[link to sound file with pronunciation](#) (at about.com)], GZOWSKI [as in the late CBC radio and TV show host Peter Gzowski]**[misc.]:** GYM(JIM)

H

pref: HEIR

silent first letter: HONOUR, HEIR OR HOARD

homophone: HEIR(AIR/ERR/,EYRE?), HOARD(WHORED), HOLE(WHOLE) or HOUR(OUR)

analogue: CHEMICAL SYMBOL FOR MERCURY (Hg), ASPIRATION(in phonetics)

name: HELOISE, HUGO

[note]: Euston (the station) and Houston (the municipality) although similar are pronounced differently

I

pref: ISLE

homophone: ISLE/I'LL(AISLE)

analogue: ONE in Roman numerals and on some old typewriters, 'THE PERPENDICULAR PRONOUN' from *The Skeleton in the Cupboard* (an episode of the TV programme *Yes Minister* by Anthony Jay and Jonathan Lynn) OR 'ME'

name: IAGO, IDA (when pronounced with an initial long-E)

J

pref: JAI ALAI OR JUAN

homophone: JEANS(GENES), JIM(GYM) or JIBE(GIBE)

[misc.]: JAI ALAI, JOJOBA, JUNTA

variants: JAIL/GAOL, JELL/GEL [I didn't think 'jell' was a word but Emily Nussbaum used it in *The New Yorker* (2013-09-11, p. 85)]

name: JEFFREY(GEOFFREY), JENNIFER(GENNIFER), JERRY(GERI/GERRY), JIAN[as in musician and CBC radio host Jian Ghomeshi], JILL(GILLES), JIM(GYM), JIMENEZ [[link to pronunciation note](#) (at www.pronouncenames.com)], JOHANNES [as in Johannes Brahms], JUAN(WAN)

K

pref: KNOW OR POTASSIUM

silent initial letter: KNIGHT, KNIFE, KNOW OR KNOT

homophone: KNIGHT(NIGHT), KERNEL(COLONEL), KNAVE(NAVE), KNEAD(NEED), KNOW(NO), KNOT(NOT, NAUGHT, OR NOUGHT), KOHL(COAL), KOI(COY) OR KURD(CURD)

analogue: CHEMICAL SYMBOL FOR POTASSIUM (K)

variants: KERB/CURB, KASHMIR/CASHMERE?

name: KEW(Q/CUE/QUEUE)[as in Kew Gardens], KLINGON('CLING ON'), KNEEL(NEAL/NEIL/NIEL), KAROL(CAROL) [as in the late Karol Castillo], and KRIS(CHRIS)

L

pref: 50

[misc.]: ???LLINAS???, ???LLAMA???

analogue: FIFTY in Roman numerals [[source](#)], POUND (LB. or £)

M

pref: MNEMONIC

silent initial letter: MNEMONIC

analogue: (ONE) THOUSAND in Roman numerals

N

pref: NAVE or SODIUM

homophone: NAVE(KNAVE), KNIGHT(NIGHT), NO(KNOW), NOT/NAUGHT/NOUGHT (KNOT)

analogue: CHEMICAL SYMBOL FOR SODIUM (Na)

name: NEIL/NIEL(KNEEL), NOËL[as in Noël Coward](KNOLL)

O

pref: OURS or ZERO

homophone: ONE(WON), ODD(AWED), or OURS?(HOURS)

analogue: HUG (abbreviation), ZERO

name: OEDIPUS, OUIJA, OTTO(AUTO)

[misc.]: OENOPHILE? ONION?

[note]: aural and oral although similar are pronounced differently

P

pref: PNEUMONIA

homophone: PHASE(FAZE), PHARAOH(FARO), PHEW(FEW), PHLOX(FLOCKS), PHISH(FISH)[the musical troupe] PSALTER(SALTER), GREEK LETTER Ψ(SIGH)

silent initial letter: PNEUMONIA [\[source\]](#), PNEUMATIC, PSALM, PSALTER, or PSYCHE

double letter phoneme: PHONE or PHAROAH

analogue: CHEMICAL SYMBOL FOR LEAD (Pb), URINE(a puerile pun, sorry)

name: PHIL(FILL), PSMITH (literary character from P. G. Wodehouse), PTOLEMY

[misc.]: P.H.A.T. (abbreviation for 'pretty hot and tempting')(FAT), PHYSICS, PHYSIQUE

Q

pref: QUAY

letter: QUEUE(Q)

homophone: QUAY(KEY), QUIRE(CHOIR) or QAT(CAT)

analogue: CHARACTER PLAYED BY JOHN DE LANCIE ON *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION*, ETC. or CHARACTER PLAYED BY DESMOND LLEWELYN IN MANY JAMES BOND MOVIES

R

pref: RYE

homophone: RIGHT(WRITE), RAP(WRAP), RECK(WRECK)?, RITZ(WRITS), RYE(WRY)?

analogue: **R̄** (prescription) [\[source\]](#)

S

pref: SEE

letter: SEA/SEE(C) or SEIZE(plural of C)

homophone: SALTER(PSALTER), SCENT/SENT(CENT), SEALING(CEILING), SEED(CEDE), SEEDY(C. D.[as in C. D. Howe]), SELL(CELL), SELLER(CELLAR), SENSOR(CENSOR), SHEIK(CHIC), SIGHT/SITE(CITE), SITEE(CITY), SIGH(GREEK LETTER PSI), or SYMBOL(CYMBAL)

analogue: CHEMICAL SYMBOL FOR TIN (Sn) or ANTINOMY (Sb)

name: SHERYL[as in Sheryl Crow](CHERYL), SID [as in the late Sid Caesar or the late Sid Vicious] (CYD), SYSCO [food services corporation] (CISCO SYSTEMS [computer networks company])

T

pref: TSUNAMI or TSAR

silent initial letter: TSUNAMI or TSAR

double letter phoneme: TSAR

variants: TSAR/CZAR

U

pref: URN or UIGHUR

homophone: URN(EARN), URINE(YOU'RE IN), USE('YOUSE')

[misc.]: UIGHUR, UKE?

V

pref: 5

analogue: FIVE in Roman numerals [\[source\]](#)

homophone: VELDT(FELT)

W

pref: WHY or TUNGSTEN

letter: WHY(Y)

analogue: CHEMICAL SYMBOL FOR TUNGSTEN (W) (AKA WOLFRAM)

homophone: WAN(JUAN), WHOLE(HOLE), WON(ONE), WRITS(RITZ), WRY(RYE), WHORED(HOARD), WRAP(RAP), WRUNG(RUNG) or WREST(REST)

silent initial letter: WRANGLE, WRECK, WREAK, WRY, WHORED, or WRUNG

X

pref: XENOPHOBIA

analogue: TEN in Roman numerals, KISS (abbreviation), GREEK LETTER CHI ([see also C](#))

[misc.]: XENOPHOBIA, XYLOPHONE

Y

pref: YPSILANTI or YOU

letter: YOU(U)

homophone: EWE(YEW/YOU), YOUR/YOU'RE(EWER) or 'YOUSE'(USE)

name: YVES(EVES), YVETTE or YVONNE

[misc.]: YPSILANTI, YTTRIUM, or YTTERBIUM

Z

pref: ZEE or 2000

[misc.]: ZEE?, ZOQUE, ZWIEBACK?, ZWITTERION?, ZHUYIN ZIMU? (or ZHUYIN)

name: ZHIVAGO [\[source\]](#)

analogue: ATOMIC NUMBER (in Chemistry), IMPEDANCE (in Physics), 2000 in medieval Roman numerals (*Chamber's Dictionary*, 12th ed.)

0

NUN, OH, THE OPERATOR

1

PAST OF 'TO WIN'

2

HALF A BALLET DRESS

3

AS IN 'THREE FOR A DOLLAR'?

4

WHAT PEOPLE YELL ON A GOLF COURSE

5

AS IN THE NUMBER OF PINS IN FIVE-PIN BOWLING???

V (ROMAN NUMERAL)

6

LATINATE SEX???

7

AS IN LUCKY NUMBER ...

8

EATEN

9

'NOT' IN GERMAN

Pronunciation of digits from [phonetic alphabet entry in Wikipedia](#) ('last modified 04:48, 28 Mar 2005')



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