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

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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/TSAR
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]), O'CYD [as in the late Cyd Charisse](SID)
[misc.]: CANINE, CEILIDH, CELERY, CHIMERA, CHI (χ and X, see also X), or CIGAR

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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, ELEGIAIC, 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), GEOFREY(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

cpref: 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

cpref: ISLE
homophone: ISLE/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

cpref: 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

cpref: 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(CHRI...
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), PSMITHE (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: ℞ (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 ANTONOMY (Sb)

ame: 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
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

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


Links to other alphabets