



# Sounds in English

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# Keep vowels short before double consonants

the vowel that comes before double consonants is always in its short pronunciation

diner dinner    later latter    will wheel



If *E* is at the end  
of a word, it's  
silent

the e is silent and it causes the  
vowel before it to become long

at ate

bit bite

mat mate





# Unstressed vowels make a “schwa” sound

it can happen to virtually any vowel

panda mitten bikini citrus freedom





*G* and *K* are always silent before  
*N* at the beginning of a word

it's almost as if the word started with a *n*

knee knock gnarl know gnome





# Pronounce *S* like *Z* at the end of a word

this happens when a word that ends in a b, d, g, l, m, n, ng, r, th or v becomes plural or an s is added

moms kings there's Michael's





# Pronounce S, Z and G like a French speaker in specific words

French language had a big impact on the way English words are written and pronounced

seizure regime garage vision measure





# *L* becomes dark near the end of a syllable

the letter l has two pronunciations referred to as the "clear l" and the "dark l"

pull   milk   little   nibble   will   wheel





## TH can be voiced or unvoiced

unfortunately, there's no rule for when to use which sound. That means that you'll have to memorize which words have which sound.

though    then    they    there    this

thought    thick    cloth    think    thunder





## TONGUE TWISTERS *TH*

There is my brother from another mother.

Three thin panthers in the bathroom.





## TONGUE TWISTERS *TH*

Is it this, that, those, these, and there or for  
when that I eat this?

Aunt Beth has thick cheeks, thin lips,  
three teeth, and thin mouth.

They thankfully think this thing is the  
best thing that they can throw the three  
times they need to throw a thing.





# TONGUE TWISTERS

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.  
A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked.  
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,  
Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?

