SILENT LETTERS
b - comb, debt, plumber, tomb, subtle, dumb, bomb, doubt, subpoena, womb, etc.
c - Connecticut
ch - yacht
e - plaque, vegetable (veg'tab'î), bridge, Wednesday (commonly said Wens-day)
   clothes, (almost all CVCV words ending in e, and many other vowel combinations.)
g - sign, gnat, gnu, foreign
gh - right, drought, eight, weigh, etc.
h - hour, honor, honest, herb, rhyme, rhythm, thyme, Thailand
i - business, parliament
k in kn words, the k is silent: know, knot, knee, etc.
l - talk, walk, could, should, would, folk, half, calf, etc.
n - autumn, column, government, damn
o - sophomore, opossum
p - cupboard, pneumonia, psalm, raspberry, receipt, coup
r - surprise (this is a common pronunciation)
s - aisle, island, patios
t - beret, Chevrolet, depot, listen, whistle, wrestle, trestle, mortgage, apostle
   (In rapid speech, the t is very lightly pronounced in such words as Christmas, mountain and little)
th - asthma, isthmus, northeaster
u - biscuit, build, guest, plaque, plaque, tongue, catalogue, fugue
w - who, whole, write, wrong, two, sword, wrist, answer
x - faux
z - rendezvous
A helpful list of sounds in English & some of the letters that make them:

The usual letters that make this sound:

Vowel Sounds
a (short sound)
apple
pat, crash
catch, bank, sarcasm
half, gallon
badge
dance, chance

Exceptions - other words with this sound:
ave - have, halve
ai - plaid

How this sound is made:

jaw: quite open; lips slightly apart;
tongue: quite low, relaxed, slightly pushed forward

a (long sound)
ace
pale, pail
way, gray
*straight, *strait

au - gauge
ey - they, prey, obey, convey
ea - great, break, steak
ei - eight, weigh, neighbor,
    vein, freight, veil, sleigh
ee - matinee
et - buffet, fillet, Chevrolet,
crochet, bouquet, beret
ie - lingerie
e - blase', naivete'

jaw, slightly open; lips: unrounded
tongue: starts out the same as short e, quite low, but tenses and moves up to long e

ah (close to o - short sound)
afraid, ago
ahaf ha, papa
spa, algebra
phobia, sofa

a - father, want, wash, watch,
watt, wand, swan, swap,
calm, swamp, garage.
balmy, suave, facade
eosis - bourgeois (bur-zhwa)

jaw: very open
tongue: very low, very relaxed
lips: slightly rounded
aw (same as au)
paw, yawn
all, wall, also
awful, awe
caught, haul, applaud
August

alk - talk, walk, chalk, etc.
oa - broad
ou - cough, thought, fought
 bought, brought
o - off, soft, log, cost, cloth
ah - Utah
a - salt, false, Arkansas (saw)

jaw: open; tongue: very low,

lsx, raises slightly in back
lips: slightly rounded

e (short sound)
egg, happiness
pet, technique
wedding
edge, fence
defense

ea - bread, breakfast, dead,
defaf, feather, head, health,
instead, *lead, *read, sweater,
threat, meant, weather
sweat, weapon, etc.
ie - friend
ue - guess
ai - said (sed)
ay - says (sez)
elle - gazelle, mademoiselle

jaw: slightly open
lips: unrounded
tongue: quite low, relaxed

e (long sound)
eagle
peel
either, receive
money, key
me

eo - people
ie - belief, believe, chief, field,
grief, niece, piece, priest,
shield, thief, yield, diesel,
brief, siege, prairie, achieve, etc.
ile - automobile
ice - police
y - any, pretty, etc.
ly - poorly, happily, etc.
i - ski, chili, macaroni, pita, chic
ine - gasoline, vaccine,
nicotine, marine
 magazine, machine, etc.
que - antique, technique,
unique
ae - Caesar salad
uite - suite

ejaw: slightly open; lips: unrounded
tongue: tense, high, and moves higher
i (short sound)
ink
pit, children
think
mist, filth
width
journalism
bridge, wince
e - English, pretty
ee - been
o - women
ia - marriage
u - busy, business
ui - build
ei - counterfeit, forfeit
ie - sieve, handkerchief
y - myth, syrup, synonym, lynx

Unaccented endings with ice: office, practice, etc.
“ " " " ile: fragile, missile, etc.
" " " ine: engine, medicine etc.
" " " ite: opposite, favorite, etc.
" " " ive: positive,*live, etc.

i (ah-ee: double sound)

ice, nice
pie
mile, reptile
advice (ad-VICE)
fine, valentine
drive, arrive, *live
*bite, excite
final
ai - aisle
ei - height, stein
i - child, mild, wild,
ight - light, right, night, etc.
ind - blind, find, kind, grind
ign - sign, benign, design
gh - high, sigh, thigh
is - island (silent s)
oy - coyote
ui - guide, disguise
uy - buy
y - my, try, fly, eye, rye, dye
*byte, rhyme, electrolyte

o (short sound - close to ah)
October, on, upon
pot, doll, cloth
clock, co-op
log, cost
one - gone
ho - honest, honor (silent h)
-- response
mosque
omb - bomb

*check sound, spelling

jaw: slightly open
lips: unrounded
tongue: midlevel, does not move,
   half-tense

sound slides from back to front
jaw and tongue: move up,
start lax, become tense
lips: from open to “smiling”

see ah: similar, but shorter
o (long sound)
open, owe
coat, *pole,
toe, *so
no, ago, radio
*clothes, *close
chose, chosen
dose, dosage

-- old, cold, hold, most, post, bolt, both
*poll, both, folk, yolk
ou - doughnut, though, boulder
o - comb (silent b)
ew - *sew
ow - pillow,*bow, yellow, low, bowl,
    throw, know,mower,*row,*sow,
--- own, owner
eau - bureau, plateau
au - chauvinist
ou - soul
eo - yeoman
ot - depot

ou (ah-oo: double sound)
out, flour, house,
count, ounce, our,
cow, flower,*bow, *row
how, brown, owl

ough - bough, drought
ho -hour (silent h)
-- lounge

ja: slightly open
lips: rounded, move closer together
tongue: tense, glides up and back

ou

jaw: very open, closes slightly
lips: open, then rounded
tongue: relaxed, very low and flat in
front, then moves up in back

oi (oh-ee: double sound)
boy
oil, coin

aw - lawyer
oice, oise - noise, choice
ois- Illinois

sound moves back to front
jaw: slightly open, moves up
lips: from rounded to unrounded
tongue: tense,glides up, forward

ja:
oo (really between a short o and short u)
   o - woman, wolf
   oo - look, brook, good
       root, wool, wood
   ou - could, would, should
   u - put

u (short sound)
up, but
butter, luck
*sum, medium
dumb (silent b)
fudge, plunge
dunce, pulse
   a - was, what
   oe - does (duz)
   ou - country, couple, cousin,
       trouble, young, rough
   o - come, love, oven, cover,
       *some, done, tongue,
       front, brother, mother,
       kingdom, etc.
   oo - flood, blood

ALL UNSTRESSED VOWELS TAKE THIS SOUND, as in banana (buh-NA-nuh).
In dictionaries, the symbol for this sound is an upside-down e: θ
   a - abbreviation
   e - silent
   i - Minnesota
   o - connect
   u - circus
   ai - captain
   ea - ocean
   io - fashion, nation
   ou - famous
   - M_cDonald’s

u (long sound, with y sound at the beginning)
used
university
ukelele, *yule
fuel, cute
abuse, tube, excuse
   eau - beauty
   u - computer, butte,
       fugue
   eu - feud, eulogy
   ie - few, pew, *yew
   iew - view

same as oo, but held longer;
also see y sound

jaw: open
lips: rounded, do not move
tongue: curves high in back

jaws: half open; lips: relaxed, not
rounded. tongue: curved half-way
up in the center. Sound is low:-“uh”
u (long sound, without y sound at the beginning)
blue, avenue,
June, tune
suit, cruise, juice
*flu, sue, enu
truth, produce
institute
eu - neutral, pneumonia, deuce,
  neurotic, neutron
ew - blew, *flew, new, crew, dew,
  drew, stew, brew, Jew, chew, etc.
  o - do *to
omb - tomb (silent b)
oo - balloon, boot, smooth, food
  noon, room, tool, tooth, *too,
  move, route, snooze, shampoo,
  choose, loose, etc.
ou - group, routine, rouge, *you
  youth, *you"ll, souvenir
who - who, whose
wo - *two
ioux - Sioux
but - debut (silent t)
jaw: open; lips: quite rounded
tongue: flat in front, moves up in
back, tenses. Sound held long.

Vowel sounds with R
(ah-R)
far, park
boulevard
March, charge
ear - heart
  -- are
uar - guard

(a-R)
fair, air
millionaire
are -care, scarce, *bare, etc.
arr - marry
ayer - prayer
ear -*bear, *tear, wear
ere - *there, where
ei - *their
err - error, berry
're - *they're
ur - bury

(ee-R)
fear, ear,
weary
*tear, *hear
atmosphere
eer - beer, cheer
eere - here
e'e're - we're
eir - weird
ier - cashier, frontier, pierce.
(ah-ee-R)
fire, *hire
acquire
oir - choir
igher - *higher

(uR)
fir, girl, third, birth
offer, her, teacher
fur, burn, Thursday
nicer, happier
urge, merge
ear - learn, earth, search, etc.
or - work, worth, worst, word, etc.
her - herb, herbal (silent h)
ure - sure, endure, insurance
re - massacre
quor - liquor

(oh-R)
for, storm, born, short
boring, *worn
*course
absorb
porch, cord
oar - oar, *soar, *coarse, etc.
oor - door, poor, floor
ore - *sore, force, horse *wore, etc.
our - four, pour, *your, etc.
ou're - *you're
ar - warm, *war, wharf, *warn, etc

(yuh-R)
pure, cure, obscure

Consonant Sounds:

b
bed
rubber

pb - cupboard, raspberry

note: same as p, but voiced

The letter c has no sound of its own! Followed by a, o, or u, it has the sound of k:
cat, cot, cut. But followed by e, i, or y, it has the s sound: cent, city, cyst. The blends cl, cr and ct have the k sound. Ch has a new sound.

d
duck
ladder

Id - would, could, should
ed - To add ed to words that end in voiced consonants (except d) the sound of ed is just d: smell’ed, etc; banned is just like band!
With words that end in d, double the d, and say two syllables: pad-ded, load-ded, etc.

note: same as t, but voiced
f
fish
offer
nephew

if - half, calf, etc.
ph - phone, etc.
gh - laugh, trough, cough
    rough, tough, enough

note: same as v, but unvoiced

has its own sound when followed by a, o, or u. When followed by e, i, or y, it has the
same sound as j: gem, gin, gym. G sound exceptions:

ge - gear, get, geese, finger, anger

game

gei - begin, giddy, gimmick,
girl, give, giggle

gum

other exceptions:

gh - ghost
gui - guide

note: same as k, but voiced

h
house
wh - who, whole
j - San Jose
ch - Chanukah

g - gyro sandwich

j
jeep

ge - gem, budget,

gi - ginger, region

gy - Egypt
dge - edge, judge, advantage etc.

gg - exaggerate
di - soldier
__ -grad_uation

note: same as ch, but voiced

k
key
cat
cot
cut
account
back

k - see c
ch - stomach, ache, orchid, chemical
cot - chasm, chaos
lk - talk, walk
kh - khaki
qu - liquor, plaque
cc - saccharine

c -traffic, picnic (Add k to endings: trafficker, panicked)

note: same as g, but unvoiced
l
lemon
bill

le - kiln
le - little (lit'l)
al - pedal (ped'l), final (fin'l)
el - model (mod'l)

m
money
dummy
rhythm

mb - comb, plumber
lm - calm, balm
mn - column, autumn, hymn
gm - diaphragm

note: air flows through nose

n
nest
banner

kn - knee, knife, know, etc.
pn - pneumonia
gn - sign, gnat, reign
en - open (op'n), etc.
on - cotton (cot'n), etc.
ain - certain (cer-t'n), etc.

p
pig
supper

ph - shepherd
ough - hiccough

note: same as b, but unvoiced

q really has no sound of its own! It is always paired with u (qu) and usually has the sound of kw. See kw under blends.

r
rug
merry

wr - write, wrong, etc.
rh - rhythm, rhyme, rhinestone
    rhinoceros
rrh - diarrhea
    - colonel (kern'l)
s
sun
kiss
cent
city
dose
goose

c - see c
ps - psalm
psy - psychology, etc.
sci - scissors, fascinate, etc.
st - listen, whistle, wrestle, etc.

note: same as z but unvoiced

s

phone
button
bt - debt, doubt, subtle, etc.
pt - receipt
th - Thomas, Thailand
ght - night, right, etc.
cht - yacht
z - pizza
ed - walked. When adding ed to words
that end in unvoiced consonants
(except t) the sound is just t: walk't.
With a word ending in t, say
two syllables: pat-ted, lif-ted.
tongue: tip taps ridge behind teeth
note: same as d, but unvoiced

v
vest
savvy
over
f - of

note: same as f, but voiced

w
web
u - persuade, iguana
-- one (won)
ou - strenuous
wh - whale, why
(some Americans say
all wh sounds as w)

x has no sound of its own. Look under blends for ks and kz.
y (refer back to vowel section - y as a vowel can have the sound of long e or short i)
yarn
  u - university, unit, cute etc.
  eu - Europe, feud
  ew - few
  eau - beauty
  i - opinion, onion
  u - strenuous
  j - hallelujah
  ll (in Spanish) torilla
  n with ~ (in Spanish) canyon

z
  zipper
  jazz
  puzzle
  frozen
  ss - scissors
  s - days, lose, was, please,
      as, advise
  si - business (biz-ness)
  use - exCUSE (verb), fuse
      choose, loose, clothes
      chosen

Consonant Blend Sounds
Some consonants can be said together. Those that make new sounds are illustrated.
The dash shows if they can only begin (bl-) or end (-ck) a syllable, or do both (-ch-).

bl-
  blue
br-
  brand
-ch-
  check
  lunch
  kitchen
  c - cello
  te - righteous
  ti - question
  tu- nature, picture (pik-chur)

-ck
cl- (really kl sound)
  clap
cr- (really kr sound)
  cross
-ct (really kt sound)
  act
dr-
  dress

(see k)

note: same as s, but voiced

note: same as j, but unvoiced
dwell
-dz
flag
frog
lift
glad
gram
-gw- (not spelled)
gu - penguin
w - wheat, white
sound starts with puff of air
-hw-
-I Words that end with an le have no e sound, just an l sound:  table (ta-b'l), uncle (un-k'l), handle(han-d'l), rifle (ri-f'l), bugle (bu-g'l), tickle (tic-k'le), simple (sim-p'l), puzzle (puz-z'l).
-ld
hold
-1k
milk
kl- (not spelled)
kr- (not spelled)
cl - clap
cr - cross
chr - Christmas, chronology
-ks-
x - tax, text, exit, box, tuxedo, etc.
c - facsimile, exciting
cc - eccentric
cks - tacks, pecks, picks, pocks, pucks
-kz- (not spelled)
exes - taxes, mixes, oxen, luxury
-kw- (not spelled)
qu - quarter, quit, etc.
cqu - acquire
ch - choir

-jmp
jump
-nch
lunch
-and

-sing, sang, sung, song, strength
-ng'd (not spelled)  nged - belonged, etc.
-ng-g (not spelled)  ng - finger, (fing-ger) anger (ang-ger)
-ngz (not spelled)  sings

-nk
sink, sank, sunk, honk

-nt
rent

pl-
plan

pr-
prime

pt
adopt

rb
curb

rch
church

rd
card

rf
scarf

rj (not spelled)  rge - large, etc.

rk
pork

rl
curl

rm
arm

rn
earn

rp
sharp

rs
nurse

rt
dirt

rth
earth

rz (not spelled)  rs - furs

rv
curve

rch
march

rsh
marshmallow
-sk- and sc- followed by a, o, u
scan, scout, scum
risk, skate
-sh-
ship
wish
worship

sch - school, schedule
scheme, schizophrenic
ci - special, ancient, musician
s - sugar, sure, censure
ch - machine, Chicago, chef
ion - nation, partial, patient
sion - tension (ten-shun)
ean - ocean (o-shun)
sci - fascism, conscious
ss - mission, tissue

shr-
shrug
skl- (not spelled)
-skr- (not spelled)
-sks
desks
skw- (not spelled)
sl-
slip
sm-
small
sn-
nap
-sp-
spill, crisp
spl-
splash
spr-
spring
-sps
wasps
-st-
stack, first
str-
string
-sts
tests
sw-
swim
-tch
*witch, pitcher(pit-chur)
-th-
thigh,
with, withhold

scl - sclerosis
scr - describe, scratch

squirrel

ch - "which, much, rich, such

note: same as zh, but unvoiced

note: This th sound is unvoiced
-th-
the, this, that
father,
these, those
there

thd (not spelled) thed - bathed
-ths
tenths
thr-
three
tr-
trip
tw-
twins, between
wh-
wheel, why (see hw for explanation and picture)
  j - San Juan, marijuana

zh (not spelled) su - measure, pleasure, leisure
  sion - vision
  z - azure
  g - genre
  ss - fission

note: This th sound is voiced

note: same as sh, but voiced
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