A helpful list of sounds in English & some of the letters that make them:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The usual letters that make this sound:</th>
<th>Exceptions - words with other letters that make this sound:</th>
<th>How this sound is made:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VOWEL and VOWEL BLEND SOUNDS</strong></td>
<td><em>(Click on drawing to hear)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a (short sound)</td>
<td>*have, *halve</td>
<td>jaw: quite open; lips slightly apart</td>
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<tr>
<td>apple</td>
<td><em>/plaid</em></td>
<td>tongue: quite low, relaxed, slightly pushed forward</td>
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<tr>
<td>pat, crash</td>
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<tr>
<td>catch, sarcasm</td>
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<tr>
<td>half, gallon</td>
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<td>badge</td>
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<tr>
<td>dance, chance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>bank, rang</td>
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<tr>
<td>a (long sound)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ace, *ate</td>
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<tr>
<td>*pale, *pail</td>
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<td>*way, gray, *pray, say</td>
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<td>*straight, *strait</td>
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<td>gauge</td>
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<td>educate</td>
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<tr>
<td>change, range</td>
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<tr>
<td>they, obey, */prey, convey</td>
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<tr>
<td>great, break, steak</td>
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<tr>
<td>*eight, *weigh, neighbor,</td>
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<td>*/vein, freight, veil, sleigh</td>
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<td>*/reign, reindeer</td>
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<td>*/buffet, fillet, Chevrolet,</td>
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<tr>
<td>crochet, bouquet, beret</td>
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<tr>
<td>resume, blase', fiancée', naïvete'</td>
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<tr>
<td>/matinee, suede</td>
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<td>/lingerie</td>
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<tr>
<td>ah (close to o - short sound)</td>
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<tr>
<td>afraid, ago</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>aha! ha, papa</td>
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<tr>
<td>spa, algebra</td>
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<tr>
<td>phobia, sofa</td>
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<tr>
<td>father, want, wash, watch,</td>
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<tr>
<td>garage, /wand, swan, swap,</td>
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<tr>
<td>calm, swamp, watt,</td>
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<tr>
<td>balmy, suave, façade</td>
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<tr>
<td>/bourgeois (bur-zhwa)</td>
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<td>/rendezvous</td>
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<tr>
<td>*watch these spellings, sounds!</td>
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<tr>
<td>aw (same as au)</td>
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<tr>
<td>all, wall, also</td>
<td>talk, walk</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
aw (same as au) all, wall, also paw, yawn awful, awe caught, haul, applaud August talk, walk, chalk, etc. broad cough, thought, fought, bought, brought off, soft, log, cost, cloth Utah salt, false, Arkansas (Arkansaw)

e (short sound) egg, happiness pet, technique wedding edge, fence defense *red, *led bread, breakfast, dead, deaf, weather, head, health, instead, *lead, *read, sweater, /threat, meant, feather sweat, weapon, etc. friend guess, guest said (sed) says (sez) /gazelle, mademoiselle

e (long sound) eagle peel either, receive money, key me *lead, *read people /reed belief, believe, diesel, field, yield, niece, piece, brief, /shield, thief, grief, chief, siege, prairie, achieve, etc. police automobile poorly, happily, etc. any, pretty, etc. gasoline, machine, magazine, vaccjine, /marine, nicotine /macaroni, ski, pita, chic /antique, technique, unique /suite /Caesar

*watch thes spelling, sounds!

i (short sound) ink *I Home
i (short sound)
ink
pit, children
think, signal
mist, fifth
width
journalism
bridge, wince
wilderness

*live
English, pretty
been (AmE)
women
marriage
busy, business
build, guilt
foreign /counterfeit, forfeit
/sieve, handkerchief
syrup, /myth, synonym, lynx

Unaccented endings with ice: office, practice, etc.

" " " ile: fragile, missile, etc.
" " " ine: engine, medicine, etc.
" " " ite: opposite, favorite, etc.
" " " ive: positive, negative, etc.

i (long sound; really a double sound: ah-ee)
iece, nice
*pie
mile, reptile
advice (ad-VICE)
fine, valentine
drive, arrive, *live
*bite, excite
final
*I, *hi, */pi

aisle
height, /stein
child, mild, wild, etc.
light, right, night, etc.
blind, find, kind, grind
sign, /benign, design
*high, sigh, thigh
island (silent s)
/coyote
guide, /disguise
buy
my, try, fly, *eye, rye, /dye
*/byte, rhyme, electrolyte

o (short sound - similar to ah)
October, on, upon
pot, doll, cloth
clock, co-op
gone
honest, honor (silent h)
response
/mosque
bomb

*check sound, spelling!

o (long sound)
open, owe
old, c
st, both, /bolt,
**O** (long sound)
- open, owe
- coat, *pole, toe, *so
- no, ago, radio
- *clothes, *close
- chose, chosen
- dose, dosage

- old, cold, hold, most, both, /bolt,
  *poll, post, folk, yolk
- doughnut, though, /boulder
- comb
  *sew
- pillow, yellow, low, bowl, own,
  throw, know, *row, /mower
  *sow, *bow
- thorough
- /bureau, plateau
- /chaudvinist
- /depot
- /soul
- /yeoman

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**ou** (really two sounds: ah-oo)
- out, *flour, house,
- count, ounce, *our,
- how, brown, owl
  *sow

- /*bough, drought
- *hour (silent h)
- /lounge

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**oi** (really two sounds: oh-ee)
- boy
- oil, coin

- lawyer
- noise, choice
- Illinois (silent s)

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*watch these spellings, sounds!

**oo** (really between a short **o** a)
oo (really between a short o and short u)
woman, wolf
look, cook, good,
/root, wool, wood, brook
could, would, should
put

Compare with u below.
jaw:open
lips: rounded, do not move
tongue: curves high in back

u (short sound)
up, but
butter, luck
*sum, medium
dumb (silent b)
fudge, plunge
dynce, pulse

was, what
does (duz)
country, couple, cousin,
trouble, young, rough
come, love, done, cover,
*some, oven, tongue,
front, brother, mother,
/kingdom, sponge, etc.
flood, blood

jaws: half open; sound is low: "uh"
tongue: curved up in the center
lips: relaxed, not rounded.

ALL UNSTRESSED VOWELS TAKE THIS SOUND, as in banana (buh-NA-nuh).
In dictionaries, the symbol for this sound is an upside-down e:

abbreviation
silent
minimum
connect
cucumber
captain
ocean
fashion, nation
famous
M cDonald's

*watch these spellings, sounds!

u (long sound, with y sound a
used, uniform

Vowels 5.
u (long sound, with y sound at the beginning)
used, uniform
university, usual
/lukulele, fuge
fuel, cute
abuse, mute, excuse

beauty
computer, butte,

/few, /pew

/feud, eulogy
view

"you, youth
coupon

(also see y sound)
lips: go from unrounded to rounded;
tongue: flat in front, moves up in back, tenses.
Sound is held long

u (long sound, with no y sound; usually after these consonants: d, j, l, n, r, s, t, w and z)
*blue, avenue,
June, tune
suit, *flu, juice
/*cruise, *sue, emu
truth, produce
institute

neutral, pneumonia, /deuce,
neurotic, neutron

*blew, *flew, new, *crews, *threw, /dew, *ewe,
drew, stew, brew, Jew, chew, etc.

two
shoe, do *to, move
who, whose

*too, boot, soon, food, room,
tool, tooth, loose, choose,
/balloon, smooth, snooze, etc.
group, routine, /route rouge, souvenir

*through
/tomb, womb

/*Sioux
/debut

/jaw: open; lips: quite rounded
tongue: flat in front, moves up in back, tenses. Sound held long.

*Check out these spellings and sounds.
Have you been able to match each starred word to one or two others on the same page that are either spelled the same but sound differently, or that are spelled differently but sound the same?

Of course, hundreds of words in English are simply one word with different meanings.

VOWELS 6.