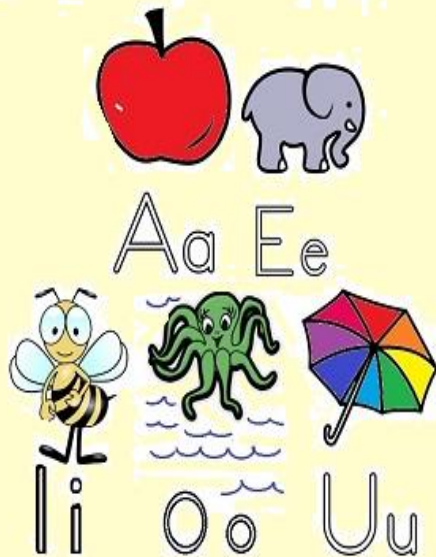


# Short & Long Vowel Sounds in English

## SHORT VOWEL SOUNDS



The long vowels say their names.



This is an introduction to short and long vowels in English-- the most common sounds for each vowel.

It also gives an easy way to remember them using color words with the same sounds. (See the colored borders.)

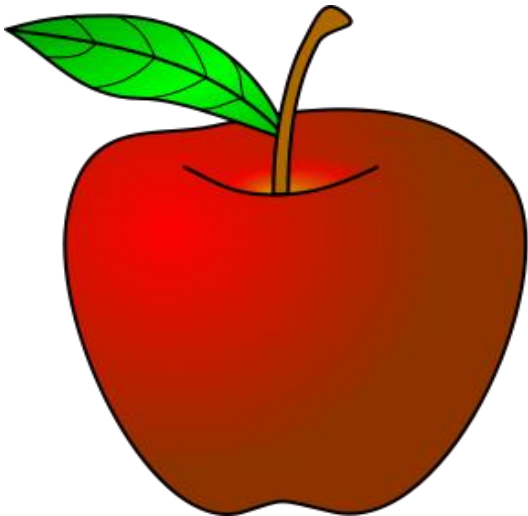
English vowels:



(Sometimes 'Y' acts as a vowel instead of 'I', and sometimes 'W' is a substitute for 'U'.)

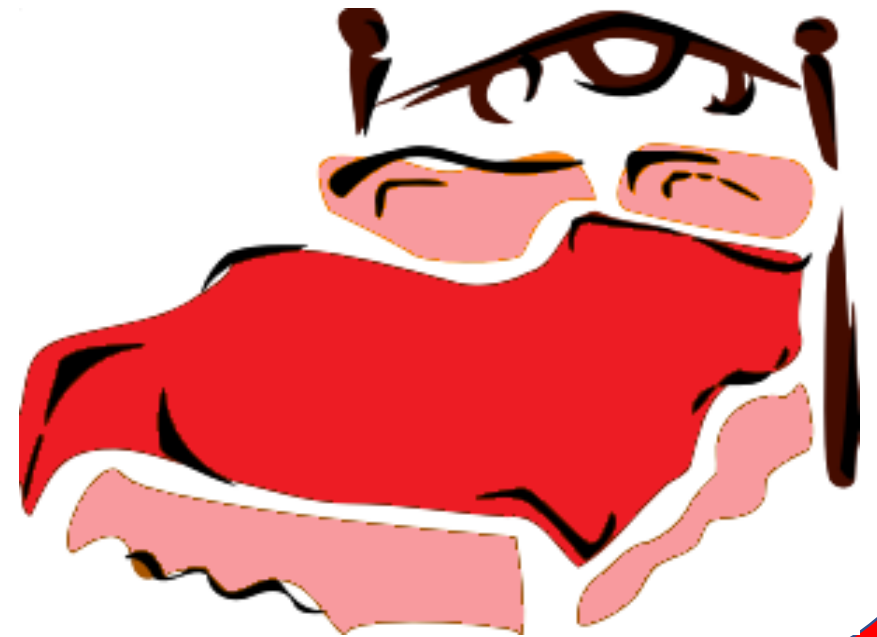
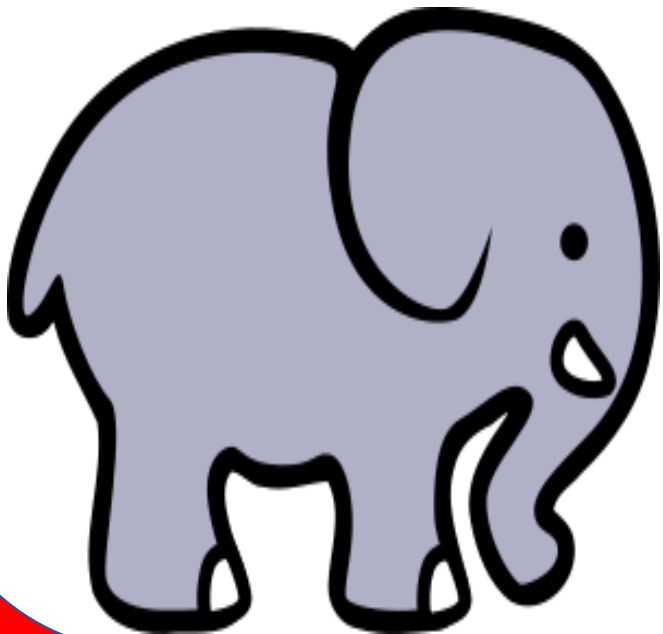
# Short Vowels: A

The most common sound for each vowel is its “short” sound:  
Short ă, pronounced /æ/ as in **apple**, **pan**, or Dan’s **black hat**



# Short Vowels: E

Short *e*, pronounced /*ɛ*/ as in **elephant**, **pen**, or Ben's **red** **bedspread**



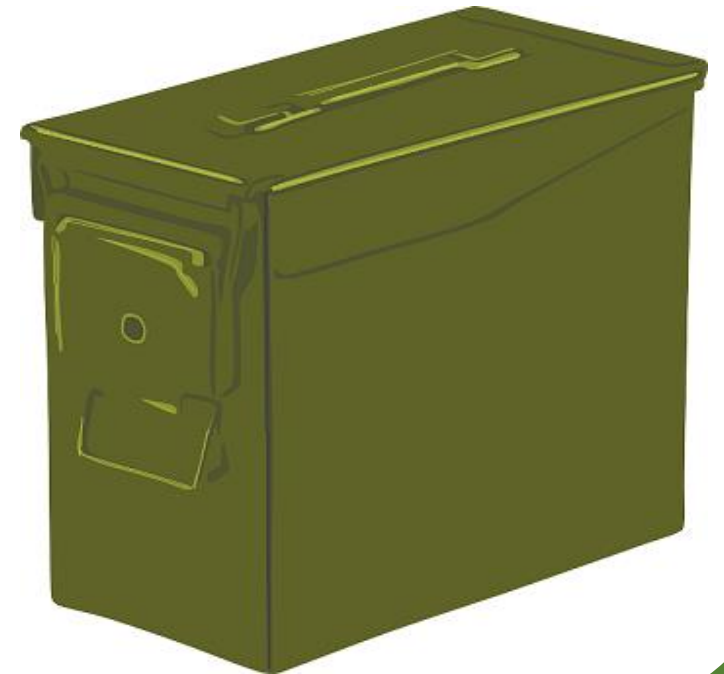
# Short Vowels: I

Short *ɪ*, pronounced /ɪ/ as in **insect**, **pin**, or Rick's **silver fish**



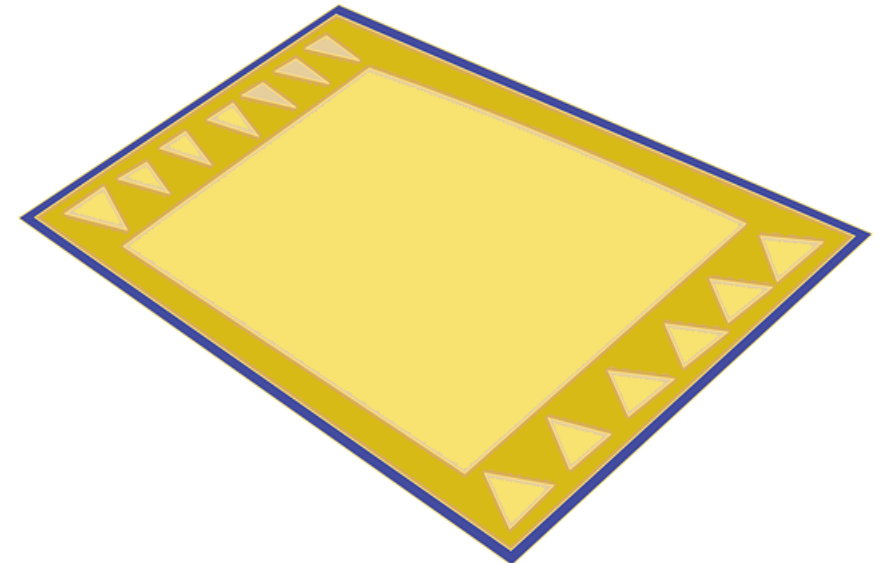
# Short Vowels: O

Short o, pronounced /ɒ/: **o**ctopus, frog pond, or Tom's **o**live **o**box



# Short Vowels: U

Short ŭ, pronounced /ʌ/ as in **u**mbrella, **u**n, or **u**g's **u**stard-colored rug



# Doubled Consonants Keep Short Vowels Short when Adding Endings

## Verbs with a Short Vowel

present - past - continuous

> hop -- **hopped** – **hopping**

> pin -- **pinned** – **pinning**

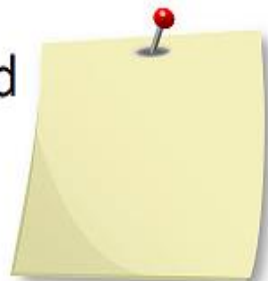
## Verbs with a Long Vowel

present - past - continuous

hope -- **hoped** -- **hoping**

pine – **pined** -- **pinning**

a pinned  
note





# Doubled Consonants Keep Short Vowels Short when Adding Endings

## Verbs with a Short Vowel

present - past - continuous

> plan – planned -- planning

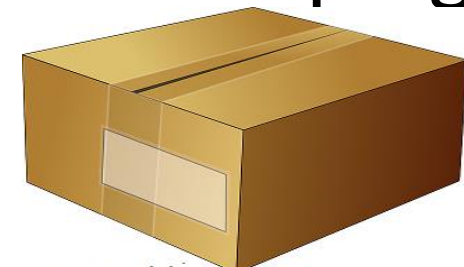
> tap – **tapped** – **tapping**

## Verbs with a Long Vowel

present - past - continuous

plane -- planed -- planing

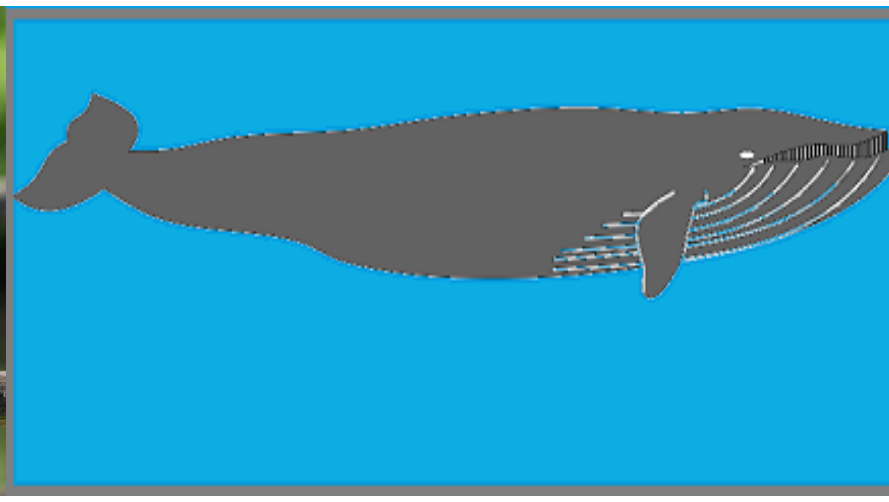
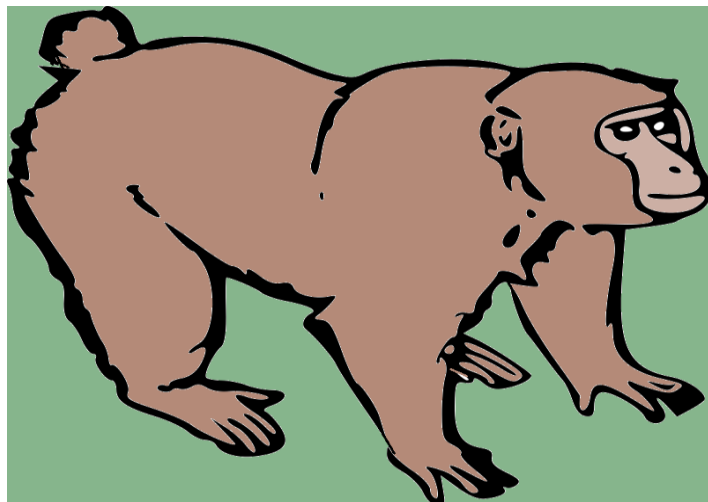
tape – taped -- taping



a taped box  
& tape

# Long Vowels: A

Long A ( $\bar{a}$  ), pronounced **/eɪ/** as in ape, mates, or Jake  
the **gray whale**



# Long Vowels: E

Long E (ē ), pronounced /i:/ as in eat, meat, or Jean's **green peas**

“**E**at some **meat**, **Pete**, or some green peas. **Try** these...”



# Long Vowels: I

Long I ( $\bar{i}$ ), pronounced /aɪ/ as in ice, might or my **white light**

Might Guy & I try ice climbing?



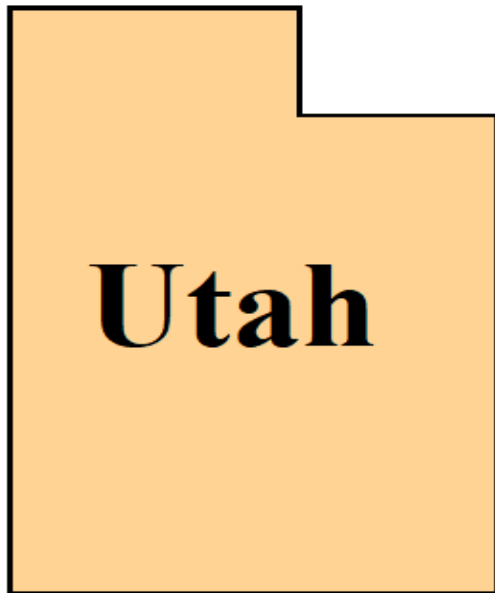
# Long Vowels: O

Long O (ō), pronounced /oʊ/ as in oats, motor boat, or Joan's **rosy bow**



## Long Vowels: U

Long U ( $\bar{u}$ ), pronounced **/ju: /** in Utah or music or **/u: /** in Bruce's **blue suit**.



## Vowels are often long:

- before a silent E (babe, bike, cute, hope, time, tube.)  
**Exceptions include:** done, give, gone, have, lose, love.  
(See the lesson on 'O' for more.)

He's such a cute baby! We hope he keeps sleeping. Don't wake him!



## Vowels are often long:

- at the end of a syllable (baby, be, future, go, he, human, I, nature, potato, tomato, provide, retire, we.)





## Vowels are often long:

➤ *-lgh and -ight* are long I (& silent GH):  
bright, fight, high, light, might, right, sigh.

“The **bright lights** **might** wake the baby,”  
the mother **sighed**.



## Vowels are often long:

- in certain digraphs: ai & ay (say, wait), ea (sometimes: meat, bean), ee (keep, need), oa (coat, soap), oe (goes, toe), & a few times ou or ow (dough, grow), ue (true), ui (fruit).

Wait! Don't **play** with the baby. He **needs** to **keep** sleeping!



# Common Examples of Short & Long Vowels

**A: short**    **A: long**

at

ate

back

bake

can

cane

mad

made & maid

tap

tape

The men ate baked beans.



# Common Examples of Short & Long Vowels

**E: short**    **E: long**

Ben            bean

men           mean

met           mete, meat, & meet

red            reed

set            seat



The men ate baked beans.

# Common Examples of Short & Long Vowels

<b>l:</b> short	<b>l:</b> long
dim	dime
fin	fine
hid	hide
lit	light & lite
sit	sight & site



The fish hid on the sand. Its fins waved like seaweed in the dim light.

# Common Examples of Short & Long Vowels

**O: short**

hop

not

rob

**O: long**

hope

note

robe

**U: short**

cut

hug

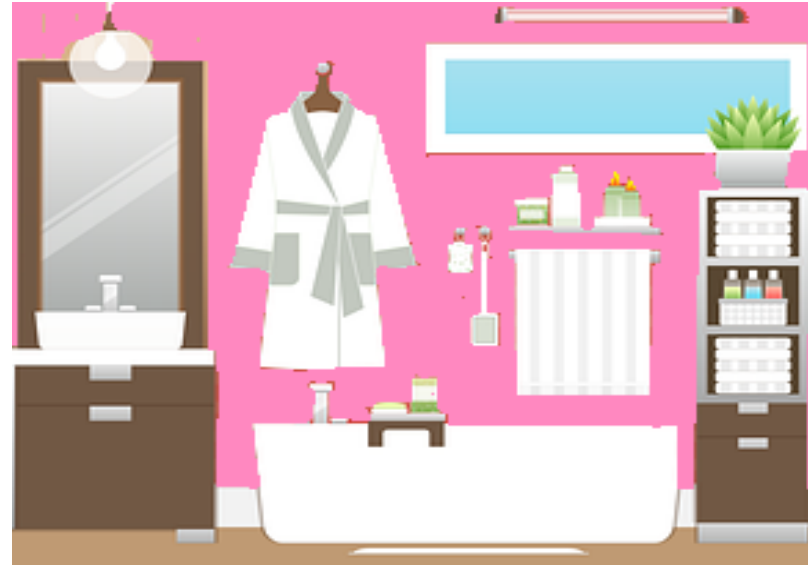
tub

**U: long**

cute

huge

tube



Note to babysitter: before the kids' bedtime, please fill the tub and get out a tube of toothpaste. Do **NOT** let them make a huge mess!

**When in doubt, check a dictionary—  
or don't worry about it!**



To hear these words pronounced and learn more about short & long vowels– as well as the **other** vowel sounds of English– see the English

Vowel Sounds & Spellings course: [https://englishhints-](https://englishhints-academy.thinkific.com/courses/english-vowel-sounds-and-spellings)

[academy.thinkific.com/courses/english-vowel-sounds-and-spellings](https://englishhints-academy.thinkific.com/courses/english-vowel-sounds-and-spellings)

It includes practice and quizzes as well as videos.

