

Review of the 'British Council – Phonemic Chart – TeachingEnglish' noting inconsistency of rationale and specific errors (by Debbie Hepplewhite 29th July 2012)

The chart below is a copy of the symbols and word examples of the British Council chart and is not the original chart.

Comment [D1]: I have previously emailed the contact address for this resource about the errors on the chart – but there was no take-up of this information.

BRITISH COUNCIL		PHONEMIC CHART							TeachingEnglish	
vowels	i: seat green tree	ɪ sit grin fish	ʊ good foot pull	u: food rule shoe	diphthongs	ɪə year beer ear	eə chair where there			
	e head bet said	ə teacher observer about	ɜ: girl nurse earth	ɔ: walk door four		əʊ joke vote throw	aʊ vow lounge out			
	æ had lamb apple	ʌ cup love money	ɑ: heart dark fast	ɒ hot stop want		eɪ they bathe way	aɪ thigh dice my	ɔɪ joy noise choice		
consonants	p pull stop apple	f four food fish	t tree stop want	θ earth thigh throw	tʃ teacher chair choice	s stop sit fast	ʃ shoe fish sure	k walk dark cup		
	b bet about beer	v observer vow vote	d door food said	ð they there bathe	dʒ joke joy lounge	z observer noise president	ʒ casual measure pleasure	g grin green girl		
	h hot head heart	m money lamb my	n grin green nurse	ŋ sing english drank	r rule grin tree	l pull love rule	w want way where	j year yes yellow		
About the chart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pure vowels are arranged the same way as in the IPA chart: according to mouth shape (left to right, lips wide/round – top to bottom, jaw closed/open). Diphthongs are grouped in rows according to their second sound. 										

Comment [D2]: In the words 'year' and 'beer', the letter 'r' needs to be included in the grapheme – to be the same as in the word 'ear'.

Comment [D3]: The 'o' in 'observer' is likely to be pronounced as /o/ rather than a schwa – this is probably not a good example.

Comment [D4]: In the words 'door' and 'four', the letter 'r' needs to be included in the grapheme – thus 'oor' and 'our' as code for the /or/ sound.

Comment [D5]: Many people would pronounce the letter 'a' as /a/ in the word 'fast'. A better example would be 'father' where many people would pronounce the letter 'a' as /a/.

Comment [D8]: In the word 'noise', the grapheme 'se' is code for the /z/ sound – not just the letter 's'. It is also surprising that there is no word example with the letter 'z' as code for the /z/ sound!

Comment [D6]: In the word 'bathe', the grapheme 'the' is code for the voiced /th/.

Comment [D7]: In the word 'lounge', the grapheme 'ge' is code for the /j/ sound – not just the letter 'g'.

Comment [D9]: In the word 'english', the first letter should be a capital E, and the letter 'n' is code for the /ng/ sound – not the letters 'ng'.

Comment [D10]: With the rationale shown earlier in the chart where there is no use of 'split digraphs' such as o-e in 'joke' and 'vote', then the grapheme 'le' should be code for the /l/ sound – not just the letter 'l' - to be consistent.

The original chart can be found at: www.teachingenglish.org.uk/activities/phonemic-chart

Review of the 'Table of phonemes' noting inconsistency of rationale and specific errors (by Debbie Hepplewhite 29th July 2012)

The chart below is a copy of the 'Table of phonemes' with its word examples and not the original chart.

Table of phonemes									
Consonants	p pop port snapper	b bark about bobble	h hoist hurt hunt	f fast fame font	v visit avail vine	m mine thumb mob	t taxi stay hunt	d date bed deer	n bin night queen
	θ girth thirst throng	ð this other smooth	ŋ sank anger sung	tʃ nature chair batch	dʒ judge soldier magic	r right trip grin	s stir sing fast	z zero noise roses	l light vallet pull
	ʃ rations ensure shift	ʒ pleasure vision leisure	w way wet one	k key walk cup	g girl game green	j yet use yellow			
Diphthongs	eɪ bray grey face	aɪ rice apply high	ɔɪ joy moist buoy	əʊ gloat joke grow	aʊ cow proud scrounge	eə their flair bear	ɪə gear peer steer	ʊə jury cure tourist	
Vowels	i: seat fleece machine	e wed fret said	æ map lamp tat	ɪ kit fish ship	ʌ money cup blood	u: goose blue shoot	ɑ: cart father heart	ɜ: refer nurse earth	ʊ pudding hood could
	ɒ plod wash flop	ɔ: door four law	ə teacher about America						

- Comment [D1]:** It would be helpful if there was guidance on the online version of the table to indicate that word examples are available to see if the cursor is hovered over the symbols.
What is the rationale for the words and graphemes selected? Is it to illustrate the focus sound in various positions in the word, and/or to provide examples of spelling alternatives? Or is there no rationale per se? Some lists show only one spelling alternative for the focus sound, some lists show up to three spelling alternatives. Some letters shown in red are not good matches for the focus sound. Not all sound matches are shown in red.
- Comment [D4]:** In the word 'judge', the grapheme 'dge' is also code for the ... [3]
- Comment [D2]:** In the word 'anger', the grapheme 'n' is code for the /ng/ so ... [1]
- Comment [D5]:** In the word 'soldier', combining the letter 'i' with the 'd' ... [4]
- Comment [D6]:** The grapheme 'se' is code for the /z/ sound in 'noise' and ... [5]
- Comment [D8]:** The word 'vallet' looks like an incorrect spelling for 'valet' d ... [7]
- Comment [D3]:** In the word 'batch', the grapheme 'tch' is code for the /ch/ s ... [2]
- Comment [D7]:** In the example 'roses', we can identify a /z/ sound at the er ... [6]
- Comment [D9]:** In the word 'ensure', 'su' is given as code for /sh/ which l ... [8]
- Comment [D10]:** To be consistent with 'soldier' and 'rations', the grapheme ... [9]
- Comment [D12]:** The word 'use' is a flawed example for the /y/ sound { ... [11]
- Comment [D11]:** The grapheme 'o' in 'one' is code for two sounds /w+o/ ... [10]
- Comment [D13]:** In 'high', the grapheme 'igh' is code for the /igh ... [12]
- Comment [D14]:** Ambiguous choice of word example for /oi/ as it could b ... [13]
- Comment [D15]:** The graphemes 'oa' and 'ow' are largely accepted as co ... [14]
- Comment [D16]:** The words 'jury', 'cure' and 'tourist' are insecure wo ... [15]

This is a copy of the 'Table of phonemes' (based on some symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet) taken from the course: 'Advanced training materials for autism; dyslexia; speech, language and communication; emotional, social and behavioural difficulties; moderate learning difficulties'.

To view the original chart, see: www.education.gov.uk/lamb/module4/M04U12.html - page 3 of 6 of the centre viewing window.

Page 1: [1] Comment [D2] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 16:29:00**

In the word 'anger', the grapheme 'n' is code for the /ng/ sound and the 'g' is code for the /g/ sound. It is an error to colour 'ng' in red.

Page 1: [2] Comment [D3] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 16:29:00**

In the word 'batch', the grapheme 'tch' is code for the /ch/ sound. It is an error to colour only the 'ch' in red.

Page 1: [3] Comment [D4] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 16:28:00**

In the word 'judge', the grapheme 'dge' is also code for the /j/ sound and yet not shown in red. In contrast, words like 'bobble' and 'America' have all the graphemes for the focus sound shown in red.

Page 1: [4] Comment [D5] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 16:31:00**

In the word 'soldier', combining the letter 'i' with the 'd' ('di') as code for the /j/ sound is valid but following the same rationale, the 'i' should have been combined with the 's' in 'vision' as 'si' being code for /zh/. The 'i' has been combined with the 't' in 'rations'('ti') so it is 'vision' which has a different rationale from the other words.

Page 1: [5] Comment [D6] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 16:31:00**

The grapheme 'se' is code for the /z/ sound in 'noise' and not just 's'.

Page 1: [6] Comment [D7] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 16:32:00**

In the example 'roses', we can identify a /z/ sound at the end of the word too which indicates that the end 's' should have been coloured in red.

Page 1: [7] Comment [D8] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 16:32:00**

The word 'vallet' looks like an incorrect spelling for 'valet' or 'valley'.

Page 1: [8] Comment [D9] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 17:07:00**

In the word 'ensure', 'su' is given as code for /sh/ which leaves only 're' as code for /oo+r/. It would be better for 's' to be coloured red as code for /sh/ leaving 'ure' as code for /oo+r/.

Page 1: [9] Comment [D10] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 16:33:00**

To be consistent with 'soldier' and 'rations', the grapheme 'si' in 'vision' would be code for the /zh/ sound.

Page 1: [10] Comment [D11] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 16:33:00**

The grapheme 'o' in 'one' is code for two sounds /w+o/, not /w/ alone.

Page 1: [11] Comment [D12] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 16:12:00**

The word 'use' is a flawed example for the /y/ sound as the grapheme 'u' is code for the /y+oo/ sounds combined.

Page 1: [12] Comment [D13] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 16:33:00**

In 'high', the grapheme 'igh' is code for the /igh/ sound not just 'i'.

Page 1: [13] Comment [D14] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 14:00:00**

Ambiguous choice of word example for /oi/ as it could be 'ouy' that is code for the /oi/ sound.

Page 1: [14] Comment [D15] **Hepplewhite** **29/07/2012 14:08:00**

The graphemes 'oa' and 'ow' are largely accepted as code for the /oa/ sound in words such as 'gloat' and 'grow', not just the grapheme 'o'.

The words 'jury', 'cure' and 'tourist' are insecure word choices. In particular, the word 'cure' has a different sound from 'jury' and 'tourist'. We can hear /k/ /y+oor/ in 'cure' but no /y/ in the other words.