

Mnemonic Marking System

1. Vowels are underlined when they say their second or long sounds in a given word (be long, name, old, fi nal). Associated letters in silent final e words are also single underlined (also see #3 below). When long vowel sounds do not follow the rules (see # 4), we use a small ² (n²amed, con t²rol).

2. Phonograms of two or more letters are underlined to show that the letters in these combinations are not pronounced separately, but stand for one sound in a given word (fault, eight, sight, na tion, badge, pack, echo). The multiple letters in consonant blends or clusters are *not* underlined since each individual letter retains its own sound value though they are blended to form a single sound (strike, melt, proud). This ensures that existing oral *phonemic awareness* of each of the 42 *elementary* sounds of English speech is not destroyed, but built.

3. All letters, consonants, and vowels, when silent for pronunciation, (limb, naughty, raspberry, people) are double underlined. This includes five kinds of silent final e words (see Rule 20):

n a m e₁ - h a v e₂ - r e s c u e₂ - c h a n c e₃ - c h a r g e₃ - l i t t l e₄ - a r e₅,

4. If a phonogram has more than one sound, small numerals ^{1 2 3 4 5 6} are placed above the phonogram to indicate which of its multiple sounds are used in accord with the order in which they were taught as phonograms:

³ do - ² low - ³ you - ⁴ cough - ⁴ cost - ² has IF ...

- ▶ It is not the first sound as taught with the phonograms. First sounds are understood, and need no number (am, not, though, bet, set, could, thin).
- ▶ It is not an underlined vowel saying its name, or second vowel sound (see #1 above), when Rules 13, 14, 15, or 16 apply (be long, a ble, bold, fi nal, by, muse).
- ▶ A spelling rule does not first explain its use. Spelling rules supersede mnemonic markings if both apply (age, chance, cent).

5. Some words are bracketed [] to show similarity or peculiarity in spelling, meaning, roots, or pronunciation [won, one, lone, alone, once, only, none].

When correct spellings, and the rules of spelling and syllabication, vary from currently accepted pronunciations, words are marked, additionally, as follows:

6. Vowels, vowel digraphs, or diphthongs: We use a "thinking cap" caret ^ above the letter when we *think* the first vowel sound to spell (but t¹on, an y, na t¹ion); an underline is added to show the digraph, or when we "think" the long vowel sound to match spelling and syllabication rules (th²e, a² lone, a² gain, r²e gard), and we use a small ³ or ⁴, between the letter and the caret to show "think to spell" third or fourth vowel sounds (com m³ a, rel³ a tive, t⁴o gether, neu t⁴ral).

7. Consonants, consonant digraphs, or consonant-vowel digraphs: Double underlines (also see #3 above) are used when pronunciations do not match spelling patterns (ques t¹ion, su¹re, su¹ gar, ex¹ am), or when doubled consonants (sounded and written for spelling) drop out in pronunciations (ye¹ low, ba¹ ter, su¹ mer).