

BBN–ANG–141 Foundations of phonology

7. Graphic positions

Péter Szigetvári

Dept of English Linguistics, Eötvös Loránd University

outline

spelling vowels

single vowel letters

predicting the sound value of single vowel letters

graphic positions

the basic rules

spelling alternations

consonant doubling

silent E

quantity deviations

irregular quantity deviations 1

regular quantity deviations 1: checked in free position

regular quantity deviations 2: overriding length

irregular quantity deviations 2

revision

checked (= short) vowels

are regularly spelled by single vowel letters: *pit* /pit/, *pet* /pet/, *pat* /pat/, *putt* /pət/, *pot* /pot/ (/u/ is also spelled by U: *put* /put/)

revision

checked (= short) vowels

are regularly spelled by single vowel letters: *pit* /pit/, *pet* /pet/, *pat* /pat/, *putt* /pət/, *pot* /pot/ (/u/ is also spelled by U: *put* /put/)

free vowels (= diphthongs)

are regularly spelled

revision

checked (= short) vowels

are regularly spelled by single vowel letters: *pit* /pit/, *pet* /pet/, *pat* /pat/, *putt* /pət/, *pot* /pot/ (/u/ is also spelled by U: *put* /put/)

free vowels (= diphthongs)

are regularly spelled

- ▶ by the same single vowel letters: *Pete* /pijt/, *Kate* /kejt/, *kite* /kajt/, *quote* /kwəwt/, *cute* /kjuwt/

revision

checked (= short) vowels

are regularly spelled by single vowel letters: *pit* /pit/, *pet* /pet/, *pat* /pat/, *putt* /pət/, *pot* /pot/ (/u/ is also spelled by U: *put* /put/)

free vowels (= diphthongs)

are regularly spelled

- ▶ by the same single vowel letters: *Pete* /pijt/, *Kate* /kejt/, *kite* /kajt/, *quote* /kwəwt/, *cute* /kjuwt/
- ▶ by vowel digraphs: eg *peat* /pijt/, *wait* /wejt/, *oat* /əwt/, *queue* /kjuw/

revision

R vowels (= long monophthongs)

are regularly spelled

revision

R vowels (= long monophthongs)

are regularly spelled

- ▶ as above with an R after the vowel: *pierce* /pi:ɜ:s/, *pair* /peɪ:/, *part* /pa:t/, *purse* /pɜ:s/, *pore* /po:z/

revision

R vowels (= long monophthongs)

are regularly spelled

- ▶ as above with an R after the vowel: *pierce* /pi:s/, *pair* /pe:/, *part* /pa:t/, *purse* /pɜ:s/, *pore* /po: /
- ▶ various other ways: eg *palm* /pa:m/, *all* /o:l/, *nought* /no:t/, *law* /lo: /, *idea* /ajdi: /

single vowel letters

	"TENSE"		"LAX"		
	FREE	SMOOTH	CHECKED	BROAD	
A	ej	e:	a	a:	cāpe, cāre, cǎp, cār
E	ij	i:	e	ə:	gēne, Gēre, gēm, gēm
I/Y	aj	a:	i	ə:	dīme, dīre, dīm, dīrt
O	əw	o:	o	o:	cōne, cōre, cōn, cōpse
U	uw	u:/o:	ə	ə:	cūte, cūre, cūt, cūrb

single vowel letters

	"TENSE"		"LAX"		
	FREE	SMOOTH	CHECKED	BROAD	
A	ej	e:	a	a:	cāpe, cāre, cǎp, câr
E	ij	i:	e	ə:	gēne, Gēre, gēm, gêrm
I/Y	aj	a:	i	ə:	dīme, dīre, dīm, dîrt
O	əw	o:	o	o:	cōne, cōre, cǒn, cōrpse
U	uw	u:/o:	ə	ə:	cūte, cūre, cūt, cûrb

we can use diacritics for identifying the sound value of single vowel letters:
 Ā=free, Ã=smooth, Ă=checked, Â=broad, etc

single vowel letters

	"TENSE"		"LAX"		
	FREE	SMOOTH	CHECKED	BROAD	
A	ej	e:	a	a:	cāpe, cāre, cǎp, cār
E	ij	i:	e	ə:	gēne, Gēre, gēm, gēm
I/Y	aj	a:	i	ə:	dīme, dīre, dīm, dīrt
O	əw	o:	o	o:	cōne, cōre, cǒn, cōrpse
U	uw	u:/o:	ə	ə:	cūte, cūre, cūt, cūrb

we can use diacritics for identifying the sound value of single vowel letters:
 Ā=free, Ã=smooth, Ă=checked, Â=broad, etc

► õ=ô: FORCE-NORTH merger

single vowel letters

	"TENSE"		"LAX"		
	FREE	SMOOTH	CHECKED	BROAD	
A	ej	e:	a	a:	cāpe, cāre, cǎp, cār
E	ij	i:	e	ə:	gēne, Gēre, gēm, gēm
I/Y	aj	a:	i	ə:	dīme, dīre, dīm, dīrt
O	əw	o:	o	o:	cōne, cōre, cǒn, cōrpse
U	uw	u:/o:	ə	ə:	cūte, cūre, cūt, cūrb

we can use diacritics for identifying the sound value of single vowel letters:
 Ā=free, Ã=smooth, Ă=checked, Â=broad, etc

- ▶ õ=ô: FORCE-NORTH merger
- ▶ õ=ũ: FORCE-CURE merger (variable)

single vowel letters

	"TENSE"		"LAX"		
	FREE	SMOOTH	CHECKED	BROAD	
A	ej	e:	a	a:	cāpe, cāre, cǎp, cār
E	ij	i:	e	ə:	gēne, Gēre, gēm, gēm
I/Y	aj	a:	i	ə:	dīme, dīre, dīm, dīrt
O	əw	o:	o	o:	cōne, cōre, cǒn, cōrpse
U	uw	u:/o:	ə	ə:	cūte, cūre, cūt, cūrb

we can use diacritics for identifying the sound value of single vowel letters:
 Ā=free, Ã=smooth, Ă=checked, Â=broad, etc

- ▶ õ=ô: FORCE-NORTH merger
- ▶ õ=ũ: FORCE-CURE merger (variable)
- ▶ ê=î=û: NURSE merger

single vowel letters

	"TENSE"		"LAX"		
	FREE	SMOOTH	CHECKED	BROAD	
A	ej	e:	a	a:	cāpe, cāre, cǎp, câr
E	ij	i:	e	ə:	gēne, Gēre, gēm, gêrm
I/Y	aj	a:	i	ə:	dīme, dīre, dīm, dīrt
O	əw	o:	o	o:	cōne, cōre, cǒn, cōrpse
U	uw	u:/o:	ə	ə:	cūte, cūre, cūt, cūrb

we can use diacritics for identifying the sound value of single vowel letters:
 Ā=free, Ã=smooth, Ă=checked, Â=broad, etc

- ▶ õ=ô: FORCE-NORTH merger
- ▶ õ=ũ: FORCE-CURE merger (variable)
- ▶ ê=î=û: NURSE merger
- ▶ â=ĩ: START-FIRE(-SOUR) merger (variable)

graphic positions

free position

graphic positions

free position

V_ spa, she, ski, sky, pro, flu

graphic positions

free position

V_ spa, she, ski, sky, pro, flu

VV chaos, neon, trial, dryad, stoic, fluid (not digraphs!)

graphic positions

free position

V_ spa, she, ski, sky, pro, flu

VV chaos, neon, trial, dryad, stoic, fluid (not digraphs!)

VCV stake, serum, writer, skype, glory, flute

graphic positions

free position

V_ spa, she, ski, sky, pro, flu

VV chaos, neon, trial, dryad, stoic, fluid (not digraphs!)

VCV stake, serum, writer, skype, glory, flute

covered position

graphic positions

free position

V_ spa, she, ski, sky, pro, flu

VV chaos, neon, trial, dryad, stoic, fluid (not digraphs!)

VCV stake, serum, writer, skype, glory, flute

covered position

VC_ map, pet, big, gym, for, pub

graphic positions

free position

V_ spa, she, ski, sky, pro, flu

VV chaos, neon, trial, dryad, stoic, fluid (not digraphs!)

VCV stake, serum, writer, skype, glory, flute

covered position

VC_ map, pet, big, gym, for, pub

VCC hand, pester, miss, myrtle, worse, hurry

graphic positions: discrepancies

- ▶ **consonant digraphs** often do not produce covered position:
bathe, *hyphen*, *ache* → blue vowels in free position
(nb *bath*, *glyph*, *much* → blue vowels in covered position!)

graphic positions: discrepancies

- ▶ **consonant digraphs** often do not produce covered position:
bathe, *hyphen*, *ache* → blue vowels in free position
(nb *bath*, *glyph*, *much* → blue vowels in covered position!)
- ▶ **X** counts as two Cs:
taxi, *Texas*, *vixen*, *oxen*, *buxom* → blue vowels in covered position

graphic positions: discrepancies

- ▶ **consonant digraphs** often do not produce covered position: *bathe*, *hyphen*, *ache* → blue vowels in free position
(nb *bath*, *glyph*, *much* → blue vowels in covered position!)
- ▶ **X** counts as two Cs: *taxi*, *Texas*, *vixen*, *oxen*, *buxom* → blue vowels in covered position
- ▶ **stop+liquid clusters** (ie {B,C,D,F(!),G,P,T} + {L,R}) do not produce covered position (although CC): *able*, *sabre*, *acre*, *cradle*, *Hadrian*, *flagrant*, *maple*, *apron*, *hatred*, *Hebrew*, *secret*, *cathedral*, *Negro*, *metre*, *Bible*, *fibre*, *micron*, *idle*, *trifle*, *migrant*, *disciple*, *title*, *mitre*, *hybrid*, *cycle*, *hydra*, *Cyprus*, *noble*, *cobra*, *Proclus*, *ogle*, *ogre*, *Constantinople*, *appropriate*, *chipotle*, *ruble*, *rubric*, *nuclear*, *lucrative*, *bugle*, *duplex*, *cupric*, *nutria* → blue vowels in free position

the basic rules

in **free** position single vowel letters are pronounced **free** (*hī*, *hīke*, *hīdra*) or **smooth** (*hīre*) (aka “**tense**”)

the basic rules

in **free** position single vowel letters are pronounced **free** (*hī*, *hīke*, *hīdra*) or **smooth** (*hīre*) (aka “**tense**”)

in **covered** position single vowel letters are pronounced **checked** (*sīt*, *sīnk*) or **broad** (*sîr*) (aka “**lax**”)

consonant doubling

to retain covered position

▶ fit

consonant doubling

to retain covered position

▶ fit → fitting, fitted

consonant doubling

to retain covered position

- ▶ fit → fitting, fitted; Jim

consonant doubling

to retain covered position

- ▶ fit → **f**itting, **f**itted; Jim → **J**immy

consonant doubling

to retain covered position

- ▶ fit → **fit**ting, **fit**ted; Jim → **Ji**mmy; **Vi**c

consonant doubling

to retain covered position

- ▶ fit → **f**itting, **f**itted; Jim → **J**immy; Vic → **V**icky

consonant doubling

to retain covered position

- ▶ fit → *fitting*, *fitted*; Jim → *Jimmy*; Vic → *Vicky*
- ▶ only after stressed vowels:
commít ~ *commítte*d, *for gé*t ~ *for gé*ttable, *occú*r ~ *occú*rring

consonant doubling

to retain covered position

- ▶ fit → *fitting*, *fitted*; Jim → *Jimmy*; Vic → *Vicky*
- ▶ only after stressed vowels:
commít ~ *commítte*d, *for gé t* ~ *for gé tte*table, *occú r* ~ *occú rring*,
but *vó mit* ~ *vó miting*, *tá rget* ~ *tá rgeting*, *cón quer* ~ *cón quering*

consonant doubling

to retain covered position

- ▶ fit → *fitt*ing, *fitt*ed; Jim → *Jimm*y; Vic → *Vick*y
- ▶ only after stressed vowels:
commít ~ *commít*ted, *for gé t* ~ *for gé t*table, *occú r* ~ *occú r*ring,
but *vó mit* ~ *vó mit*ing, *tá r*get ~ *tá r*geting, *cón quer* ~ *cón quer*ing
- ▶ in BrE also after unstressed vowels for L:
trá vel ~ *trá vell*ing, *có un sel* ~ *có un sell*or (AmE: *trá vel*ing, *có un sel*or);
optionally for S: *bí as* ~ *bí as*(s)ed, *fó cus* ~ *fó cus*(s)ing

consonant doubling

to retain covered position

- ▶ fit → *fitt*ing, *fitt*ed; Jim → *Jim*my; Vic → *Vic*ky
- ▶ only after stressed vowels:
commít ~ *commít*ted, *for*gét ~ *for*géttable, *occú*r ~ *occú*rring,
 but *vó*mit ~ *vó*miting, *tár*get ~ *tár*geting, *cón*quer ~ *cón*quering
- ▶ in BrE also after unstressed vowels for L:
*trá*vel ~ *trá*velling, *có*unsel ~ *có*unselor (AmE: *trá*veling, *có*unselor);
 optionally for S: *bías* ~ *bías*(s)ed, *fó*cus ~ *fó*cus(s)ing
- ▶ covered position is retained even when “unjustified” (because the vowel is free): *contró*l ~ *contró*lling

consonant doubling

to retain covered position

- ▶ fit → **f**itting, **f**itted; Jim → **J**immy; Vic → **V**icky
- ▶ only after stressed vowels:
commít ~ *commít**t**ed*, *for**g**ét* ~ *for**g**é**t**ttable*, *occú**r*** ~ *occú**r**ring*,
but *vó**m**it* ~ *vó**m**iting*, *tá**r**get* ~ *tá**r**geting*, *cón**q**uer* ~ *cón**q**uering*
- ▶ in BrE also after unstressed vowels for L:
*trá**v**el* ~ *trá**v**elling*, *có**u**n**s**el* ~ *có**u**n**s**ellor* (AmE: *trá**v**el**i**ng*, *có**u**n**s**el**o**r*);
optionally for S: *bí**a**s* ~ *bí**a**s**(s)**ed*, *fó**c**us* ~ *fó**c**us**(s)**ing*
- ▶ covered position is retained even when “unjustified” (because the vowel is free): *contró**l*** ~ *contró**l**ling*

- ▶ consonant digraphs cannot be doubled: **fish** → **fish**ing

consonant doubling

to retain covered position

- ▶ fit → *fitting*, *fitted*; Jim → *Jimmy*; Vic → *Vicky*
 - ▶ only after stressed vowels:
commít ~ *commítte*d, *foré*t ~ *forétt*able, *occúr* ~ *occúrr*ing,
 but *vó*mit ~ *vómit*ing, *tár*get ~ *tárget*ing, *cón*quer ~ *cónquer*ing
 - ▶ in BrE also after unstressed vowels for L:
*trá*vel ~ *trávell*ing, *có*unsel ~ *cóunsell*or (AmE: *trá*veling, *có*unselor);
 optionally for S: *bías* ~ *bías(s)*ed, *fó*cus ~ *fócus(s)*ing
 - ▶ covered position is retained even when “unjustified” (because the vowel is free): *contró*l ~ *contróll*ing
-
- ▶ consonant digraphs cannot be doubled: *fish* → *fish*ing
 - ▶ X need not be doubled: *fix* → *fix*ing

silent E

to retain free position

hated, hating

silent E

to retain free position

hated, hating → hate

silent E

to retain free position

hated, hating → hate

even when this is “unjustified” (because the vowel is checked):

cōming ~ *cōme*

silent E

to retain free position

hated, hating → hate

even when this is “unjustified” (because the vowel is checked):

cōming ~ *cōme*

to show that the previous consonant is “soft”

age, *notice*

silent E

to retain free position

hated, hating → hate

even when this is “unjustified” (because the vowel is checked):

cōming ~ *cōme*

to show that the previous consonant is “soft”

age, *notice*; if the vowel is checked, the consonant is usually “doubled”:

bādge, *ēdge*, *brīdge*, *lōdge*, *jūdge*

silent E

to retain free position

hated, hating → hate

even when this is “unjustified” (because the vowel is checked):

cǒming ~ *cǒme*

to show that the previous consonant is “soft”

age, *notice*; if the vowel is checked, the consonant is usually “doubled”:

bǎdge, *ědge*, *brǐdge*, *lǒdge*, *jǔdge* (or not: *allěge*, cf *allegation*)

silent E

to retain free position

hated, hating → hate

even when this is “unjustified” (because the vowel is checked):

cǔming ~ *cǔme*

to show that the previous consonant is “soft”

age, *notice*; if the vowel is checked, the consonant is usually “doubled”:

bǎdge, *ědge*, *brǐdge*, *lǒdge*, *jǔdge* (or not: *allěge*, cf *allegation*)

after word-final /v/

the letter V must be followed by a vowel letter: *gǐve*, *hǎve*, *lǒve*;

accordingly any vowel followed by V is in free graphic position

irregular quantity deviations 1:

“lax” (ie checked or rarely broad) vowel in free position

in the last syllable it is rare

irregular quantity deviations 1:

“lax” (ie checked or rarely broad) vowel in free position

in the last syllable it is rare

- ▶ with word-final /v/: *hǎve*, *to lǐve* (but cf the adjective *līve*), *gǐve*

irregular quantity deviations 1:

“lax” (ie checked or rarely broad) vowel in free position

in the last syllable it is rare

- ▶ with word-final /v/: *hǎve*, *to līve* (but cf the adjective *līve*), *gīve*
- ▶ elsewhere: *âre*, *allěge*, *wêre*, *gõne*, *shõne*

irregular quantity deviations 1:

“lax” (ie checked or rarely broad) vowel in free position

in the last syllable it is rare

- ▶ with word-final /v/: *hǎve*, *to līve* (but cf the adjective *līve*), *gīve*
- ▶ elsewhere: *âre*, *allěge*, *wêre*, *gõne*, *shõne*
- ▶ in LOVE words: *lõve*, *dõne*, *cõme*, etc.

irregular quantity deviations 1:

“lax” (ie checked or rarely broad) vowel in free position

in the last syllable it is rare

- ▶ with word-final /v/: *hǎve*, *to līve* (but cf the adjective *līve*), *gīve*
- ▶ elsewhere: *âre*, *allěge*, *wêre*, *gõne*, *shõne*
- ▶ in LOVE words: *lõve*, *dõne*, *cõme*, etc.

in the second-last syllable it is common and often unpredictable

ǎtom vs. *dātum*

děvil vs. *ēvil*

lěmon vs. *dēmon*

věry vs. *Věry*

trīple vs. *discīple*

sýrup vs. *Cýrus*

shortening/ “laxing” environments

except for U, vowels in free position are **regularly** checked in the following environments

- ▶ third last syllable

shortening/ “laxing” environments

except for U, vowels in free position are **regularly** checked in the following environments

- ▶ third last syllable
- ▶ in the syllable right before word-final *-ic*, *-id*, *-it*, *-et*, *-el*, *-ish_{n,v}*

shortening/ “laxing” environments

except for U, vowels in free position are **regularly** checked in the following environments

- ▶ third last syllable
- ▶ in the syllable right before word-final *-ic, -id, -it, -et, -el, -ish_{n,v}*
- ▶ before free U

shortening/ “laxing” environments

except for U, vowels in free position are **regularly** checked in the following environments

- ▶ third last syllable
- ▶ in the syllable right before word-final *-ic, -id, -it, -et, -el, -ish_{n,v}*
- ▶ before free U
- ▶ before CiV, **only I/Y**

trisyllabic laxness

in the third last syllable typically checked vowels occur

ǎnimal, ěnemy, oriĝinal, pŷramid, ōpera

trisyllabic laxness

in the third last syllable typically checked vowels occur

ǎnimal, ěnemy, orřiginal, pŷramid, ōpera

also before the third last syllable (but these are rarely stressed)

ǎristocrat, hělicopter, dŷrigible

trisyllabic laxness

in the third last syllable typically checked vowels occur

ǎnimal, ěnemy, orřinal, pŷramid, ǒpera

also before the third last syllable (but these are rarely stressed)

ǎristocrat, hělicopter, dřirigible

but

trisyllabic laxness

in the third last syllable typically checked vowels occur

ǎnimal, ěnemy, orĭginal, pŷramid, ǒpera

also before the third last syllable (but these are rarely stressed)

ǎristocrat, hĕlicopter, dĭrigible

but

- ▶ U is exempt: eg *cūcumber, jūniper, dūplicate*

trisyllabic laxness

in the third last syllable typically checked vowels occur

ǎnimal, ěnemy, orĭginal, pŷramid, ǒpera

also before the third last syllable (but these are rarely stressed)

ǎristocrat, hĕlicopter, dĭrigible

but

- ▶ U is exempt: eg *cūcumber, jūniper, dūplicate*
- ▶ suffixes added to free stems do not count: eg *cāter-ing, sēcret-ly, lĭcense-s, cōsi-ness*

trisyllabic laxness

in the third last syllable typically checked vowels occur

ǎnimal, ěnemy, orĭginal, pŷramid, ǒpera

also before the third last syllable (but these are rarely stressed)

ǎristocrat, hĕlicopter, dĭrigible

but

- ▶ U is exempt: eg *cūcumber, jūniper, dūplicate*
- ▶ suffixes added to free stems do not count: eg *cāter-ing, sēcret-ly, lĭcense-s, cōsi-ness*
- ▶ miscellaneous exceptions: *Ābraham, fāvourite, obēsity, hĭbernate, nōtify, cōdify, glōrify* (note that *-ity, -ify* are not normally added to free stems: *sāne ~ sǎnity, tŷpe ~ tŷpify*)

laxing endings

a vowel is checked before word-final *-ic*, *-id*, *-it/-et*, *-el*, *-ish*_{noun/verb}

laxing endings

a vowel is checked before word-final *-ic*, *-id*, *-it/-et*, *-el*, *-ish*_{noun/verb}

- ▶ *pǎnic*, *vǎlid*, *tǎcit*, *tǎblet*, *pǎnel*, *pǎrish*

laxing endings

a vowel is checked before word-final *-ic*, *-id*, *-it/-et*, *-el*, *-ish*_{noun/verb}

- ▶ *pǎnic*, *vǎlid*, *tǎcit*, *tǎblet*, *pǎnel*, *pǎrish*
- ▶ *clǎric*, *tǎpid*, *crǎdit*, *tǎnet*, *bǎvel*, *pǎrish*

laxing endings

a vowel is checked before word-final *-ic*, *-id*, *-it/-et*, *-el*, *-ish*_{noun/verb}

- ▶ *pǎnic*, *vǎlid*, *tǎcit*, *tǎblet*, *pǎnel*, *pǎrish*
- ▶ *clěric*, *těpid*, *crědit*, *těnet*, *běvel*, *pěrish*
- ▶ *clīnic*, *vīvid*, *dīgit*, *drīblet*, *swīvel*, *fīnish*, *cýnic*

laxing endings

a vowel is checked before word-final *-ic*, *-id*, *-it/-et*, *-el*, *-ish*_{noun/verb}

- ▶ *pǎnic*, *vǎlid*, *tǎcit*, *tǎblet*, *pǎnel*, *pǎrish*
- ▶ *clěric*, *těpid*, *crědit*, *těnet*, *běvel*, *pěrish*
- ▶ *clīnic*, *vīvid*, *dīgit*, *drīblet*, *swīvel*, *fīnish*, *cýnic*
- ▶ *tǒpic*, *sǒlid*, *vǒmit*, *cǒmet*, *brǒthel*, *pǒlish*

laxing endings

a vowel is checked before word-final *-ic*, *-id*, *-it/-et*, *-el*, *-ish*_{noun/verb}

- ▶ *pǎnic*, *vǎlid*, *tǎcit*, *tǎblet*, *pǎnel*, *pǎrish*
- ▶ *clěric*, *těpid*, *crědit*, *těnet*, *běvel*, *pěrish*
- ▶ *clīnic*, *vīvid*, *dīgit*, *dřīblet*, *swīvel*, *fīnish*, *cŷnic*
- ▶ *tǒpic*, *sǒlid*, *vǒmit*, *cǒmet*, *brǒthel*, *pǒlish*

note that *-ish*_{adjective} is not a laxing ending

Dānish, *Swēdish*, *Īrish*, *Pōlish*

laxing endings

a vowel is checked before word-final *-ic*, *-id*, *-it/-et*, *-el*, *-ish*_{noun/verb}

- ▶ *pǎnic*, *vǎlid*, *tǎcit*, *tǎblet*, *pǎnel*, *pǎrish*
- ▶ *clěric*, *těpid*, *crědit*, *těnet*, *běvel*, *pěrish*
- ▶ *clīnic*, *vīvid*, *dīgit*, *dřīblet*, *swīvel*, *fīnish*, *cŷnic*
- ▶ *tǒpic*, *sǒlid*, *vǒmit*, *cǒmet*, *brǒthel*, *pǒlish*

note that *-ish*_{adjective} is not a laxing ending

Dānish, *Swēdish*, *Īrish*, *Pōlish* (but *Spānish*, *Flēmish*, *Brītish*)

laxing endings

a vowel is checked before word-final *-ic*, *-id*, *-it/-et*, *-el*, *-ish*_{noun/verb}

- ▶ *pǎnic*, *vǎlid*, *tǎcit*, *tǎblet*, *pǎnel*, *pǎrish*
- ▶ *clěric*, *těpid*, *crědit*, *těnet*, *běvel*, *pěrish*
- ▶ *clīnic*, *vīvid*, *dīgit*, *dřīblet*, *swīvel*, *fīnish*, *cŷnic*
- ▶ *tǒpic*, *sǒlid*, *vǒmit*, *cǒmet*, *brǒthel*, *pǒlish*

note that *-ish*_{adjective} is not a laxing ending

Dānish, *Swēdish*, *Īrish*, *Pōlish* (but *Spānish*, *Flēmish*, *Brītish*)

but

laxing endings

a vowel is checked before word-final *-ic*, *-id*, *-it/-et*, *-el*, *-ish_{noun/verb}*

- ▶ *pānic*, *vālid*, *tācit*, *tāblet*, *pānel*, *pārish*
- ▶ *clĕric*, *tĕpid*, *crĕdit*, *tĕnet*, *bĕvel*, *pĕrish*
- ▶ *clīnic*, *vīvid*, *dīgit*, *dřīblet*, *swīvel*, *fīnish*, *cŷnic*
- ▶ *tōpic*, *sōlid*, *vōmit*, *cōmet*, *brōthel*, *pōlish*

note that *-ish_{adjective}* is not a laxing ending

Dānish, *Swēdish*, *Īrish*, *Pōlish* (but *Spānish*, *Flĕmish*, *Brītish*)

but

- ▶ U is exempt: *mūsic*, *hūmid*, *ūnit*, *strūdel*, except for *pūblic*, and *-ish_{n/v}*: *pūnish*, *pūblish*

laxing endings

a vowel is checked before word-final *-ic*, *-id*, *-it/-et*, *-el*, *-ish*_{noun/verb}

- ▶ *pānic*, *vālid*, *tācit*, *tāblet*, *pānel*, *pārish*
- ▶ *clēric*, *tēpid*, *crēdit*, *tēnet*, *bēvel*, *pērish*
- ▶ *clīnic*, *vīvid*, *dīgit*, *drīblet*, *swīvel*, *fīnish*, *cūnic*
- ▶ *tōpic*, *sōlid*, *vōmit*, *cōmet*, *brōthel*, *pōlish*

note that *-ish*_{adjective} is not a laxing ending

Dānish, *Swēdish*, *Īrish*, *Pōlish* (but *Spānish*, *Flēmish*, *Brītish*)

but

- ▶ U is exempt: *mūsic*, *hūmid*, *ūnit*, *strūdel*, except for *pūblic*, and *-ish*_{n/v}: *pūnish*, *pūblish*
- ▶ other exceptions: *bāsic*, *phonēmic*, *scēnic*, *aerōbic*, *psūchic*; *Dāvid*, *hūybrid*; *sēcret*; *nāvel*, *lībel*, *hāzel*, *sēquel*

free U laxness

a vowel is checked if followed in the next syllable by a free U

stătue, *vălu*e, *měnu*, *gěnu*ine, *contĩnu*e, *vĩsu*al, *fĩgu*re, *mőd*ule, *cöpfu*la

free U laxness

a vowel is checked if followed in the next syllable by a free U

stătue, *vălu*e, *měnu*, *gěnu*ine, *contĩnu*e, *vĩsu*al, *fĩgu*re, *mődul*e, *cöpfu*la

a vowel is not (necessarily) checked before a covered U

free U laxness

a vowel is checked if followed in the next syllable by a free U

stātue, vālue, mĕnu, gĕnuine, contĭnue, vĭsual, fĭgure, mōdule, cōpula

a vowel is not (necessarily) checked before a covered U

▶ *stāte vs. stātue vs. stātus vs. stāture*

free U laxness

a vowel is checked if followed in the next syllable by a free U

stātue, *vālue*, *měnu*, *gěnuine*, *contīnue*, *vīual*, *fīgure*, *mōdule*, *cōpula*

a vowel is not (necessarily) checked before a covered U

- ▶ *stāte* vs. *stātue* vs. *stātus* vs. *stāture*
- ▶ *Vēnus* vs. *věnu*

free U laxness

a vowel is checked if followed in the next syllable by a free U

stātue, *vālue*, *měnu*, *gěnuine*, *contīnue*, *vīual*, *fīgure*, *mōdule*, *cōpula*

a vowel is not (necessarily) checked before a covered U

- ▶ *stāte* vs. *stātue* vs. *stātus* vs. *stāture*
- ▶ *Vēnus* vs. *věnu*
- ▶ *Jēsus* vs. *Jěsuit*

free U laxness

a vowel is checked if followed in the next syllable by a free U

stātue, *vālue*, *měnu*, *gěnuine*, *contīnue*, *vīual*, *řīgure*, *mōdule*, *cōpula*

a vowel is not (necessarily) checked before a covered U

- ▶ *stāte* vs. *stātue* vs. *stātus* vs. *stāture*
- ▶ *Vēnus* vs. *věnu*
- ▶ *Jēsus* vs. *Jěsuit*
- ▶ *mīnus* vs. *mīnute*, cf *mīnúte* with stress on the last syllable

free U laxness

a vowel is checked if followed in the next syllable by a free U

stātue, *vālue*, *měnu*, *gěnuine*, *continue*, *visual*, *figure*, *mödule*, *cöpula*

a vowel is not (necessarily) checked before a covered U

- ▶ *stāte* vs. *stātue* vs. *stātus* vs. *stāture*
- ▶ *Vēnus* vs. *věnue*
- ▶ *Jēsus* vs. *Jěsuit*
- ▶ *mīnus* vs. *minute*, cf *minúte* with stress on the last syllable

but

free U laxness

a vowel is checked if followed in the next syllable by a free U

stātue, vālue, mĕnu, gĕnuine, contĭnue, vĭsual, fĭgure, mōdule, cōpula

a vowel is not (necessarily) checked before a covered U

- ▶ *stāte* vs. *stātue* vs. *stātus* vs. *stāture*
- ▶ *Vĕnus* vs. *vĕnue*
- ▶ *Jĕsus* vs. *Jĕsuit*
- ▶ *mĭnus* vs. *mĭnute*, cf *mĭnute* with stress on the last syllable

but

- ▶ U is exempt: *mūtual, ūsual*

free U laxness

a vowel is checked if followed in the next syllable by a free U

stātue, vālue, mĕnu, gĕnuine, contĭnue, vĭsual, fĭgure, mōdule, cōpula

a vowel is not (necessarily) checked before a covered U

- ▶ *stāte* vs. *stātue* vs. *stātus* vs. *stāture*
- ▶ *Vĕnus* vs. *vĕnue*
- ▶ *Jĕsus* vs. *Jĕsuit*
- ▶ *mĭnus* vs. *mĭnute*, cf *mĭnute* with stress on the last syllable

but

- ▶ U is exempt: *mūtual, ūsual*
- ▶ other exceptions: *nāture, embrāsure, erāsure, procĕdure, clōsure, compōsure, expōsure*

CiV laxness

I and Y is checked if followed by CiV

I CiV → Ĩdiot

CiV laxness

I and Y is checked if followed by CiV

ICiV → ĭdiot

CiV laxness

I and Y is checked if followed by CiV

ICiV → ĭdiot

CiV laxness

I and Y is checked if followed by CiV

ICiV → ĭdiot

CiV laxness

I and Y is checked if followed by CiV

ICiV → *ǎ*diot

vǎsion, *Bolǎvia*, *coalǎtion*, *malǎcious*, *delǎrium*, *oblǎvion*, *Lǎdia*, *Sǎria*

CiV laxness

I and Y is checked if followed by CiV

ICiV → *ř*diot

*vř*sion, *Bolř*via, *coalř*tion, *malř*ciouš, *delř*rium, *oblř*vion, *Lř*dia, *Sř*ria

CyV and CeV have the same effect

*hř*deouš, *ř*linear, *př*geon, *ř*Libya, *ř*Chřlean

CiV laxness

I and Y is checked if followed by CiV

ICiV → ĭdiot

vĭsion, Bolĭvia, coalĭtion, malĭcious, delĭrium, oblĭvion, Lĭdia, Sĭria

CyV and CeV have the same effect

hĭdeous, lĭnear, pĭgeon, Lĭbya, Chĭlean

note 1

as all other overriding laxing rules, this applies only to stressed vowels: eg
lycéum /lajsijəm/

CiV laxness

I and Y is checked if followed by CiV

ICiV → ědiot

věsion, Bolěvia, coalětion, malěcious, delěrium, oblěvion, Lědia, Sěria

CyV and CeV have the same effect

hědeous, lěnear, pěgeon, Lěbya, Chělean

note 1

as all other overriding laxing rules, this applies only to stressed vowels: eg
lycěum /lajsijěm/

note 2

laxing rules may apply simultaneously, eg in *cěpula* (trisyllabic and free U laxness), *oblěvion* (trisyllabic and CiV laxness), etc.

CiV tenseness

a stressed vowel other than I/Y followed by CiV is tense (free or smooth)

nātion, aquārium, rēgion, lēsion, impērial, lōtion, tutōrial, fūsion, Mūriel

CiV tenseness

a stressed vowel other than I/Y followed by CiV is tense (free or smooth)

nātion, aquārium, rēgion, lēsion, impērial, lōtion, tutōrial, fūsion, Mūriel

CyV and CeV have the same effect

courāgeous, ārea, mēteor, cēreal, ōcean, arbōreal, Prōcyon

CiV tenseness

a stressed vowel other than I/Y followed by CiV is tense (free or smooth)

nātion, aquārium, rēgion, lēsion, impērial, lōtion, tutōrial, fūsion, Mūriel

CyV and CeV have the same effect

courāgeous, ārea, mēteor, cēreal, ōcean, arbōreal, Prōcyon

but

Itālian, retāliate, Dāniel, compānion, nātional, rātion, păgeant, pătriot, căviar, glăcier, Slovākia, Yugoslāvia, Somālia, spēcial, prēcious, discrētion, prēmier

almost complementary distribution before CiV

SVL	“TENSE”	“LAX”
A	ālien, ārea	(rare)
E	tēdious, sērial	(rare)
I/Y	(none)	vīcious, mŷriad
O	ōcean, Glōria	(very rare)
U	fūision, fŷrious	(none)

prevocalic length/ “tenseness”

a stressed vowel before another vowel is **always** free

chāos, nēon, līon, cȳan, Nōah, fūel

prevocalic length/ “tenseness”

a stressed vowel before another vowel is **always** free

chāos, nēon, līon, cȳan, Nōah, fūel

with the exception of A word-final stressed vowels are also free

hē, skī, skȳ, gō, flū

prevocalic length/ “tenseness”

a stressed vowel before another vowel is **always** free

chāos, nēon, līon, cȳan, Nōah, fūel

with the exception of A word-final stressed vowels are also free

hē, skī, skȳ, gō, flū

word-final stressed A is broad (= “lax”)

brâ, schwâ, mâ, fâ, lâ

overriding tenseness

prevocalic tenseness overrides the effect of

overriding tenseness

prevocalic tenseness overrides the effect of

- ▶ trisyllabic laxness: *lāity*, *dēity*, *sobrīety*, *vīolate*

overriding tenseness

prevocalic tenseness overrides the effect of

- ▶ trisyllabic laxness: *lāity, dēity, sobriety, vīolate*
- ▶ laxing endings: *mosāic, nuclēic, herōic*

overriding tenseness

prevocalic tenseness overrides the effect of

- ▶ trisyllabic laxness: *lāity, dēity, sobriety, violate*
- ▶ laxing endings: *mosāic, nucleic, herōic*

CiV tenseness overrides the effect of

overriding tenseness

prevocalic tenseness overrides the effect of

- ▶ trisyllabic laxness: *lāity, dēity, sobriety, vīolate*
- ▶ laxing endings: *mosāic, nuclēic, herōic*

CiV tenseness overrides the effect of

- ▶ trisyllabic laxness: *Austrālia, aquārium, hēlium, Mongōlia*

tense (free/smooth) vowel in covered position

tense vowels before a consonant cluster (not stop+liquid!)

are usually spelled by a vowel digraph: eg *east, field, waist, toast, hoax, boost, wound* (also smooth vowels: *stairs, beard, weird*)

tense (free/smooth) vowel in covered position

tense vowels before a consonant cluster (not stop+liquid!)

are usually spelled by a vowel digraph: eg *east, field, waist, toast, hoax, boost, wound* (also smooth vowels: *stairs, beard, weird*)

[aj] has no common vowel digraph equivalent

chīld, mīld, wīld (but *gīld, guīld*), *bīnd, kīnd, mīnd, wīnd_v* (but *wīnd_n*),
pīnt, alīgn, benīgn, malīgn, sīgn; fīght, knīght, līght, mīght, nīght, rīght,
sīght, hīgh, sīgh, thīgh

tense (free/smooth) vowel in covered position

other deviant words (word-final *-ange*, *-aste*, *-old*, *-olt*, *-ol(l)*, *-ost*)

strānge, *chānge*, *rānge* (but *flānge*); *hāste*, *chāste*, *pāste*, *tāste*, *wāste* (but *cāste*); ; *ōld*, *bōld*, *fōld*, *hōld*, *sōld*; *bōlt*, *cōlt*, *jōlt*, *vōlt*; *contrōl*, *patrōl*, *pōll*, *rōll*, *scrōll*, *tōll*, *trōll* (but *dōll*); *ghōst*, *hōst*, *mōst*, *pōst* (but *cōst*, *frōst*, *lōst*)

tense (free/smooth) vowel in covered position

other deviant words (word-final *-ange*, *-aste*, *-old*, *-olt*, *-ol(l)*, *-ost*)

strānge, *chānge*, *rānge* (but *flānge*); *hāste*, *chāste*, *pāste*, *tāste*, *wāste* (but *cāste*); ; *ōld*, *bōld*, *fōld*, *hōld*, *sōld*; *bōlt*, *cōlt*, *jōlt*, *vōlt*; *contrōl*, *patrōl*, *pōll*, *rōll*, *scrōll*, *tōll*, *trōll* (but *dōll*); *ghōst*, *hōst*, *mōst*, *pōst* (but *cōst*, *frōst*, *lōst*)

miscellaneous other cases

bōth, *Rūth*, *āncient*, *dōn't*, *wōn't*, *ōnly*, *scārce*, *bāss*, *grōss*

sample exam questions

which blue vowel is in covered graphic position?

1. hacking
2. hating
3. aching
4. sibling

sample exam questions

which blue vowel is in covered graphic position?

1. **hacking**
2. **hating**
3. **aching**
4. **sibling**

sample exam questions

which blue vowel is in covered graphic position?

1. **h**acking
2. h**a**ting
3. a**ch**ing
4. s**i**bling

which word exhibits a quantity deviation?

1. pretty /prɪtɪj/
2. Cathy /kəθɪj/
3. Katie /keɪtɪj/
4. duty /dʒuːtɪj/

sample exam questions

which blue vowel is in covered graphic position?

1. hacking
2. hating
3. aching
4. sibling

which word exhibits a quantity deviation?

1. pretty /prɪtɪj/
2. Cathy /kəθɪj/
3. Katie /keɪtɪj/
4. duty /dʒuːtɪj/