

NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION

Silent letters

- b:** doubt, debt, subtle, climb, lamb, bomb, thumb, comb, tomb, womb, plumber
- c:** muscle
but: muscular
- d:** handkerchief
- g:** before -n- at the beginning: gnaw
at the end: reign, sign, foreign
- h:** honour, honest, heir, vehemence, vehicle, historical
after -r- in words of Greek origin: rheumatism
personal names, place names: Graham, Nottingham, Birmingham
in th-: thyme, Theresa, Mathilda, Thomas, Anthony, Esther
- k:** before -n- at the beginning: knock, knit, knight, knowledge
- l:** palm, balm, walk, alms, almond, folk, salmon, Holmes, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, yolk
- n:** after -m-:
at the end: column, autumn, hymn, damn
but: hymnic, autumnal, damnation
- p:** before -s-: pseudo, psalm, psalter, psyche, psoriasis, psychedelic, psychiatric, psychosis, pseudonym
but: psi /psai/sai/
before -t-: pterodactyl, pterosaur, Ptolemy, Ptolemaic, receipt
but: concept, reception
before -n-: pneumatic, pneumonic
- s:** isle, island
- t:** at the end of some French words: ballet, chalet, bouquet, depot
but: banquet
in -sten, -st: moisten, fasten, hasten, soften, chestnut
- w:** before -r-: wrinkle, write, wrap, wreck, wretched, wrath, Wrangel, Wren, wrestle, wrist, wring
in -wich, -wick: Norwich, Berwick, but: Ipswich

Words of foreign origin

- ae:** Caesar, formulae, aesthetic
au: auto, automatic, autobiography, aura, fauna
eu: pneumonia, eucharist, feudal, neutral, neuro-, pseudo-
eau: bureau, plateau
igue: fatigue
ique: antique, technique
oe: Phoenix, Phoebe
oo: zoology
ch: moustache, Chicago, champagne, chivalry, chemistry, patriarch, orchestra, monarchy, choir, chorus, chronology, chronic, chronicle, characteristic, echo, Chimera
bi: two: bilingual, bi-weekly
neo: neoclassical
th: thermo, theology, therapeutic, therapy, theorem, thesis, theme, thrombosis, thyroid, Theodore, theist, thematic, theocracy, theocratic, Zarathustra, atheism, pathos, anthem, sympathy, rhythm
x: Xanthippe, Xavier, xenophobia, xerography, xerox, Xerxes, xylophone
-iah: Zachariah, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Elijah

Word formation and lexical stress

Adjectives:

- ic:** economic, Olympic, historic, onomatopoeic, optimistic, idiotic, idiomatic, idiosyncratic, idealistic, authentic, autocratic, autobiographic
-ical: economical, historical, biblical, methodological, ideological, technological, astronomical
-ific: specific, scientific

Nouns:

- ity:** illegibility, authenticity, Nativity
-ion: adaptation, invitation, individualization, automation

Frequently mispronounced words

occur - occurrence	luxury - luxurious
finite - infinite	anxious - anxiety
admire - admirable	separate - separate
certify - certificate	Christ - Christian - Christianity
though - tough	Christmas - christen
famous - infamous	nature - natural
prefer - preferable, preference	nation - national

comfortable, suitable, irritable
beloved, rugged, learned, aged, blessed, wicked

Leicester, Worcester, Gloucester, Reading
Sheila, Keith, Yale, Yeats
Los Angeles, Swansea, Chelsea
Vaughan, Maugham, Derby, Rothschild
mayor, sew
catastrophe, apostrophe, dilettante