

## LONG OR SHORT VOWELS

### What is meant by long or short vowels?

**Long vowels** are the vowels that say their own names. Listen for the vowel sounds in these examples.

Long a is the vowel you hear in day, way, cake, gate

Long e is the vowel you hear in be, bee, me, we, three

Long i is the vowel sound you hear in I, tie, lie, my

Long o is the sound you hear in so, toe, no, go, snow

Long u is the sound you hear in blue, clue, Sue, you

**Short vowel sounds** do not say their names. Listen for their sounds in these examples.

Sho

Sho

Sho

Sho

Sho

Here

A vo

two

Exa

bug

A vo

vow

walking, the first one does the talking.

*Examples:* take, read, die, stone, tube, people

Sometimes the letter y or w acts as the **second vowel** in a word. So the first vowel is long.

*Examples:* play, snow, grow

### **BUT not all vowels follow the rules!**

Here are some words that don't follow the rules.

These words have short vowel sounds: bread, head, sweat, read (past tense), health

These words have long vowel sounds: sang, rang, thank, bank

These words have a silent first vowel and a long second vowel: field, height.



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## Try this!

Answer the riddles.

1. I am a place to swim. I have a long a sound.

- a) pool
- b) pond
- c) lake

2. A frog and a bunny move like this short o word.

- a) hop
- b) hope
- c) hoop

- 3] I
- a] o
- b] r
- c] p



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