

BBC MODIFIED SPELLING GUIDE

The BBC Pronunciation Unit provides pronunciations in written form using BBC Modified Spelling – a respelling system based on English spelling conventions and mainly English sounds (with a few additions).

A breve mark (˘) above a single vowel, such as ă, ĕ, ŏ, ŭ indicates a weak vowel as in *sofă*, *ovĕn*, *bigŏt*, *lotus*. **Stressed syllables are indicated by placing an acute accent over the stressed vowel (´).**

VOWELS

a as in <i>hat</i>	ī as in <i>ari<u>ā</u></i> , <i>el<u>ē</u>ct</i> , <i>happ<u>y</u></i>	ow as in <i>now</i>
aa (aar) as in <i>father (bar)</i>	ī(r) as in <i>high</i> , <i>fire</i>	oy as in <i>boy</i>
arr as in <i>marry</i>	irr as in <i>mirror</i>	u as in <i>cup</i>
air as in <i>hair</i>	o as in <i>not</i>	ü as in French <i>vu</i> or German <i>fünf</i>
aw as in <i>law</i>	ō as in <i>no</i>	ur as in <i>fur</i>
ay as in <i>day</i>	ö as in French <i>peu</i> or <i>coeur</i>	urr as in <i>hurry</i>
e as in <i>get</i>	öi as in French <i>fauteuil</i>	a(ng) as in French <i>vin</i>
ee as in <i>street</i>	öö as in <i>book</i>	aa(ng) as in French <i>blanc</i>
eer as in <i>deer</i>	oo as in <i>boot</i>	o(ng) as in French <i>bon</i>
err as in <i>merry</i>	öör as in <i>poor</i>	ö(ng) as in French <i>un</i>
i as in <i>bit</i>	or as in <i>corn</i>	ă, ĕ, ŏ, ŭ as in
	orr as in <i>sorry</i>	<i>so<u>fă</u></i> , <i>ov<u>ĕ</u>n</i> , <i>big<u>ŏ</u>t</i> , <i>lot<u>u</u>s</i>

-(ng) after a vowel indicates nasalization. French *un bon vin blanc*: ö(ng) bo(ng) va(ng) blaa(ng).

CONSONANTS

b as in <i>bat</i>	k as in <i>king</i>	sh as in <i>ship</i>
ch, tch as in <i>church</i> , <i>catch</i>	l as in <i>leg</i>	t as in <i>top</i>
<u>ch</u> as in Sc. <i>loch</i> or Ger. <i>ich</i>	m as in <i>man</i>	th as in <i>thin</i>
d as in <i>day</i>	n as in <i>not</i>	<u>th</u> as in <i>there</i>
f as in <i>fit</i>	ng as in <i>singer</i>	v as in <i>vet</i>
g as in <i>get</i>	ng-g as in <i>finger</i>	w as in <i>will</i>
h as in <i>hat</i>	p as in <i>pen</i>	y as in <i>yes</i>
<u>h</u> as in Welsh <i>llan</i>	r as in <i>red</i>	z as in <i>zebra</i>
j as in <i>Jack</i>	s as in <i>sit</i>	<u>zh</u> as in <i>measure</i>

Example: *pronunciation* would be respelt as **prönnunssi-áyshöñ**. *Natalia Bessmertnova* would be respelt as **nătääl-yă bëssmyáirtnövä**.

Pronunciation of R:

Our respellings acknowledge word-final or pre-consonantal R (e.g. *hair*, *party*), pronounced in some accents of English (rhotic) but not in others (non-rhotic). Example: *Parker* is transcribed as páarkĕr, not páákĕr, and the rs will be pronounced or not according to the speaker's accent.

Pronunciation of Y:

In Modified Spelling, when y appears between a consonant and a vowel, it represents a glide and is marked with a ligature (e.g. *beauty*: byóoti; *dune*: dyoon; *few*: fyoo; *argue*: áargyoo; *Hugh*: hyoo; *million*: mílyön, *music*: myóozik; *manual*: mányoo-äl; *pew*: pyoo; *ensue*: insyóo; *tune*: tyoon; *view*: vyoo; *Zeus*: zyooss).