

# How to Understand Long and Short Vowel Sounds

There are five vowels in the alphabet.

**a e i o u**

The rest are called consonants.

There is one more, which is a half vowel: **y**

**Y** is a consonant at the beginning of a word, e.g. **yellow**

Anywhere else it is acting as a vowel, e.g. **cry**

**Every word, and every syllable, or beat in a word, MUST have at least one vowel.**

All the vowels make 2 sounds – short or long. Listen to them.

So **a** can be short, as in **a**pple and **ca**t

Or **a** can be long, as in **a**corn or **ma**ke.

The long sound is also the letter's name, when you say the alphabet.

Short **e** as in **e**gg      Long **e** as in **e**vil

Short **i** as in **i**tip      Long **i** as in **i**ron

Short **o** as in **o**range      Long **o** as in **cro**cus

Short **u** as in **f**uss      Long **u** as in **f**ury

Short **y** as in **t**ypical      Long **y** as in **t**ype