à	'a'	<b>a</b> nt
å	'ay'	<b>a</b> te
å	'ah'	<b>a</b> sk
å	'aw'	all
å	'o'	w <b>a</b> sh



## Reading rules

- a usually says its first sound 'a' if followed by a consonant within the same syllable (tap, ap-ple).
- **a** may say its first sound 'a' if followed by two consonants (land).
- **a** usually says its second sound 'ay' at the end of a syllable (ba-by).
- a usually says its second sound 'ay' if a silent e ends the word (make).
- a may say its third sound 'ah' if followed by two consonants (last).
- a always says its fourth sound 'aw' if followed by II or Ik (all, walk).
- **a** usually says its fifth sound 'o' after **w** or **qu** (was, squat).

### Spelling rules

**a** may not represent the sound 'ay' at the end of a word. **ay** is usually used (day).



**s** 's' **s**it

ś 'z' plea**s**e

# **Reading rules**

**s** says its second sound 'z' at the end of a word if it follows a vowel sound or a voiced consonant sound  $(say_s^2, love_s^2, egg_s^2)$ .

### **Spelling rules**

**s** is often doubled at the end of a one-syllable word following a single vowel if it says its first sound 's' (fu**ss**)

ss may never be used to represent the sound 'z'.

**s** may never be used to represent the sound 'z' at the beginning of a word.

s never follows x.

### Voicing

The first sound 's' is unvoiced. The same mouth position is used for the second sound 'z', but 'z' is voiced.







th 'th' thank

### **Reading rules**

Silent **e** at the end of a word makes **th** say its second sound 'thh' (bathe, tee**th**e).

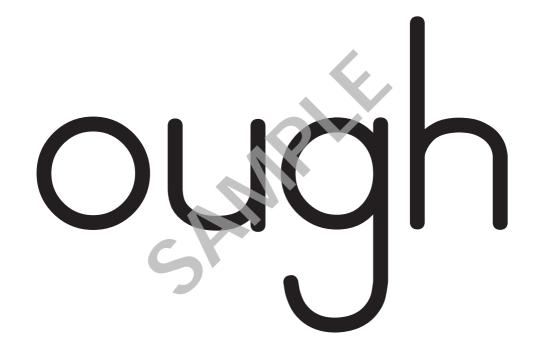
### **Spelling rules**

The sound 'thh' at the end of a word is represented by th+e (lithe, seethe). The exception is smooth.

# **Voicing**

These two sounds are formed in the same way—releasing air between the tongue and upper teeth—but 'th' is unvoiced and 'thh' is voiced. Feel the vibration on the tongue as the sound is voiced.





ough	'oh'	th <b>ough</b>
ough	'oo'	thr <b>ough</b>
ough	'uff'	rough
ou⁴gh	'off'	tr <b>ough</b>
ou⁵gh	'aw'	f <b>ough</b> t
ough	'ow'	dr <b>ough</b> t



ough says its fifth sound 'aw' before t. The exception is drought.

# **Spelling rules**

ough may only be used at the end of a word or before t.

