About Phonetic Finder

WriteExpress Phonetic Finder Version 2001 for Windows 2000, 98, 95 and NT

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WriteExpress Phonetic Finder is a valuable tool for linguists, teachers, and anyone interested in the sounds of English words. Save time brainstorming for words containing specific sound combinations. First, choose phonetic symbols from a linguistic chart containing vowels, stops, fricatives, affricates, liquids, and glides. Use "wild card" symbols that let you match zero or more sounds, any single sound, consonant, or vowel sounds. Once you have assembled your phonetic pattern, click the Search button. WriteExpress Phonetic Finder quickly assembles data for minimal pairs, pronunciation exercises, or phonics research.

Other uses of Phonetic Finder are:

Pronunciation practice

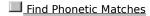Vocabulary studies

Sound-to-spelling studies

Poetry or lyrics

Sound frequency studies

Sound combination studies

English morphology studies

English language materials development

 Find Phonetic Matches

_____

 Related Topic

Find Phonetic Pattern

This topic is not called by the help system.

Find Phonetic Matches

To retrieve words with specific phonetic patterns,

1 Type or paste a word with the phonetic pattern you want to find in the upper edit box and click To Phonetic.

  or

  Create the pattern you want to find in the Phonetic Pattern edit box using phonetic symbols. For example, to find words that end with the **eed** sound of **need**, you would type ***Ed**

  <u>Vowels</u>

  <u>Stops</u>

  <u>Fricatives</u>

  <u>Affricates</u>

  <u>Liquids</u>

  <u>Glides</u>

  <u>Additional Symbols</u>

2 Click Search

 Related Topics

Save Search Results

To save retrieved words to a DOS text file,

1 Click File ▶ Save Search Resutls.

2 Specify a path and filename.

3 Click Save.

About Options

Use Options to limit the scope of a search.

For example, Phonetic Finder's syllable selection capability lets you specify the smallest and greatest number of syllables in the words to be retrieved. This helps you find words that fit a specific rhythm or meter (although Phonetic Finder does not recognize which syllable is the stressed syllable).

▤ Syllables in Words
▤ First Letter in Words
▤ Letters in Words

📚 **Related Topic**

First Letter in Words

To specify the range of letters of the alphabet to be searched,

1 Click Edit ▶ Options.

2 Specify the letters of the alphabet at which you want your search to begin and end. If you want to search under only one letter of the alphabet, type the same letter in both fields.

Syllables in Words

To limit the number of syllables in the words to be retrieved,

1 Click Edit ▸ Options.

2 Specify the range of syllables desired in the words to be retrieved. If you want all of the retrieved words to have the same number of syllables, enter the same number in both fields.

Letters in Words

To limit the number of letters in the words retrieved,

1 Click Edit ▶ Options.

2 Specify the range of letters desired in the words to be retrieved. If you want all of the retrieved words to have the same number of letters, enter the same number in both fields.

Reset Options

To reset all options to their default values for all searches until you readjust them,

1 Click Edit ▶ Options ▶ Reset.

Vowels

Vowels are sounds produced with neither the tongue nor the lips obstructing the flow of air through the mouth.

Every syllable has a vowel as its nucleus. Some vowel sounds are simple, as with the **i** of **bit**; others may be more complex, combining two or three vowel sounds into one syllable nucleus, as with the **<ir>** of **clear** and the **<owr>** of **hour**.

Stops

Stops are sounds pronounced with either the tongue or the lips completely stopping the air from escaping through the mouth for a brief moment before the next sound is pronounced.

This stoppage occurs in the pronunciation of any word containing **p**, **b**, **t**, **d**, **k**, or **g**. Although the stops **m**, **n**, and **<ng>**, as in **rim**, **kin**, and **king**, do not allow air to escape through the mouth, they do allow air to escape through the nasal passage. Hence, these stops may also be called nasals.

Fricatives

Fricatives are sounds pronounced by forcing air through a constriction formed by pressing either the tongue or lips against another part of the mouth, and then forcing air through the constriction. For example, to pronounce the fricatives **f** or **v**, the lower lip is pressed against the upper teeth and air is forced through the constriction. This produces the fricative sounds heard at the beginning of the words **fine** and **vine**.

The difference between **f** and **v** is called voicing. Sounds are voiced when they are pronounced with vocal cord vibration. Sounds are voiceless when they are pronounced without vocal cord vibration. Hence, **v** is voiced, and **f** is voiceless. This distinction is consistent for most pairs of consonants that have obstruction at the same place in the mouth (e.g., **b** and **p**, **d** and **t**, **g** and **k**).

Affricates

Affricates are sounds that combine the features of stops and fricatives into a single pronunciation. Like stops, affricates begin with complete stoppage, but end, like fricatives, with friction.

For example, the affricate **<ch>**, as in the word **cheer**, begins with stoppage like the sound **t**, but quickly changes into the fricative sound **<sh>**, all in one rapid articulation.

There are only two of these sounds in American English. The **j** of **jeer** is voiced, and the **<ch>** of **cheer** is voiceless.

Liquids

Sounds that are very fluid in the way they react with other sounds are liquids. They have neither stoppage nor friction. They are the sounds **l** as in **lid** and **r** as in **rid**.

Glides

Sounds pronounced with movement (gliding action) of either the tongue or lips at the beginning or ending of a vowel articulation are glides. For example, the pursing and moving of the lips can be felt in the pronunciation of the **wi** of **win**, as can the movement of the tongue with the pronunciation of the **ye** of **yes**. The sounds **w** and **y** are glides.

Glides may occur at the end of vowel articulations. However, in Phonetic Finder, all glides that occur at the end of vowel articulations (off-glides) are included as part of the vowel (syllable nucleus). Hence, the vowel **a** as in **bait** already contains the off-glide, so it is unnecessary to code the off-glide when using Phonetic Finder option.

Additional Symbols

These symbols act as wildcards and represent .different types of sounds when used as part of a phonetic pattern.

Asterisk (*)

Question Mark (?)

C

V

Hypehn (-)

Asterisk (*)

The asterisk represents any number of unspecified sounds, or no sounds at all.

For example, if you wish to retrieve all the words using Phonetic Finder that contain the sound **<zh>**, as in **measure**, enter the phonetic pattern ***<zh>***. Retrieved words include beige, camouflage, leisure, and occasion. Because the asterisk appears on both sides of the sound, Phonetic Finder retrieves words containing this sound, regardless of what sounds occur (or do not occur) before or after this sound. To retrieve only those words ending with this sound, enter ***<zh>**. Retrieved words include corsage, garage, prestige, and rouge.

Question Mark (?)

The question mark represents any single, unspecified sound.

For example, to retrieve all the words using Phonetic Finder that begin with any single sound and end with the sound **et**, enter the phonetic pattern **?et**. Retrieved words include bet, debt, let, and yet.

C

The uppercase C represents any one consonant sound (which includes any sound that is not a vowel).

For example, to find a list of words that have the vowel sound **<aw>** between two consonant sounds, enter the phonetic pattern **C<aw>C**. Retrieved words include ball, chalk, fog, and naught.

V

The uppercase V represents any one vowel sound.

For example, to retrieve a list of words in which any one vowel sound falls between two **t** sounds, enter the phonetic pattern **tVt**. Retrieved words include tart, taught, toot, and tight.

Hyphen (-)

The hyphen represents a syllable break.

For example, to retrieve a list of words that have **p** sounds at the beginning of the first and second syllables, with the syllables separated by any one vowel sound, and that are two or more syllables long, enter the phonetic pattern **pV-pV***. Retrieved words include paper, papoose, people, and potpourri.

Select Intended Pronunciation

Phonetic Finder includes multiple pronunciations for well-known variants, but not all dialect variations are included. If a word you want to convert to a phonetic pattern has multiple pronunciations, they are displayed phonetically with a legend of phonetic symbols.

For example, if you enter the word **read** under any of the options, the pronunciation choices **rEd** and **red** appear:

Double click the pronunciation you want to use. For example, to find words rhyming words with **read**, with the vowel sound pronounced **ee** as in the word **beet**, you would double click **rEd**.

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