

English Pronunciation: “GHOTI”

How would you pronounce the invented word “GHOTI”?

The expected pronunciation in English would sound like "GOATY". However, using various English pronunciation styles, it could be pronounced in different ways, but the most extreme way would be as “FISH”. Let’s examine how:

- GH pronounced ‘F’ as in “ENOUGH”, “TOUGH” or “LAUGH”
- O pronounced ‘I’ as in “WOMEN”
- TI pronounced “SH” as in “CONVERSATION”, “MOTION” or “NATION”

The key to the phenomenon is that the pronunciations of the three parts of the word are inconsistent with how they would normally be pronounced. Let’s see how:

- 1) “GH” can only resemble an “F” sound after the letters “OU” or “AU” (for example "tough", "cough", "laugh", "enough");
- 2) “O” sometimes has the sound of a short letter “I” (for example “women”);
- 3) “TI” only resembles an “SH” sound when it is followed by a vowel sound (for example "motion", "patient", "spatial").

GH – O – TI
F – I – SH

By the way, this word DOES NOT EXIST! It was created simply to show how crazy English pronunciation can be!

Here are some more crazy spellings:

1. “TOLOT” is pronounced “CHURCH”
 - T pronounced ‘CH’ as in “PICTURE”
 - OLO pronounced ‘UR’ as in “COLONEL” (like “KERNEL”)
 - T pronounced ‘CH’ as in “PICTURE”
2. “OED” is pronounced “WHAT”
 - O pronounced ‘WHA’ as in “ONE”
 - ED pronounced ‘T’ as in “HACKED” or “STOPPED”
3. “HO” is pronounced “WHY”
 - HO pronounced ‘HO’ as in “CHOIR”

Suggested video: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/3ipFdRfVvK4> (1 min)