

English Pronunciation – The Letter 'E'

English vowels have different pronunciations, depending on the surrounding consonants.

For example, the letter 'e' can be:

- short (example: *bet*)
- long (example: *meter*)

In a short word, 'e' usually has a short sound:

- men
- leg
- pen

And 'e' followed by a double consonant also usually has a short sound:

- better
- ledger
- beggar
- necklace

But 'e' followed by a consonant and a vowel usually has a long sound:

- meter
- lever
- lemur

Exercise. Pronounce these words, and say if the 'e' is *short* or *long*:

- wet
- femur
- seller
- gel
- lend
- retard
- peck

The rules of pronunciation in English have many exceptions! So, the best way to speak correctly is to remember how to pronounce every individual word!

Note:

An 'e' is sometimes pronounced as a 'schwa'. Examples: *summer*, *theater*.

Suggested video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8zWWp0akUU> (4 mins)