

Several words with <ar> and <er> have variant pronunciations in [a1r] and [e1r]. However, by applying the Principle of Preferred Regularity, the following basic correspondences emerge:

[a1r] = <arV>: *apparel, character, familiarity, larynx, paradise, tariff, vary*

[e1r] = <erV>: *America, ceremony, era, gerund, heretic, merit, peril, very*

These two VCV spellings contrast with the following VCC and VC# spellings:

[o3r] = <arC>: *cargo, departure, enlarge, farming, garment, larvae, margin, sharp*, and

= <ar#>: *bar, car, far, jar, mar, scar, tar*

[u1r] = <erC>: *adverb, concern, expert, germ, jerk, term* and

= <er#>: *confer, her, per, prefer, refer*

The canonical spellings <arC> and <erC> have the special cases <arr> and <err>, which complicate the above correspondences:

[a1r] = <arr>:

[e1r] = <err>:

Also [e1r] = <ar> with secondary stress and followed by <y> or an <i> derived from <y>:

Combining these into an array of sound-to-spelling correspondences:

(i)

[a1r] = <arV> or <arrV>

[o3r] = <arC> or
<ar#>

[e1r] = <erV> or <errV>

[u1r] = <erC> or
<er#>

With this special case: [e1r] = <ar> with
secondary stress and followed by <y> or an <i>
derived from <y>

Combining the above information into an array of spelling-to-sound

correspondences:

(ii)

<arV> and <arrV> = [a1r]	<arC> and <ar#> = [o3r]
<erV> and <errV> = [e1r]	<erC> and <er#> = [u1r]
With this special case: <ary> = [e1r] with secondary stress and followed by <y> or an <i> derived from <y>	

Looking at (i) and (ii): VrC and Vr# are equivalent and consistent with the canonical VCC and VC#.. VrV and Vrr are equivalent. A kind of “spelling pronunciation” at work here? Since [a1] and [e1] are short and lax vowels, the <arV> and <erV> spellings in (i) represent a reversal of the canonical VCV string. But the <arr> and <err> spellings are consistent with the VCC string. Since [o3], though not long, is tense, the <arC> and <ar#> spellings of [o3r] also run counter to the VCC and VC# canonicals. On the other hand, since [u1] is a lax and short vowel, the <erC> and <er#> spellings of [u1r] are consistent with the VCC and VC# canonicals.

Continuing to look at <er> and <ar> spellings:

<errV(V)> = [e1r]	<arrV(V)> = [a1r]
<ere#> = [e3r]	<are#> = [a3r]

<erVV> = [e3r]	<arVV> = [a3r]
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<ir>

<irC> and <ir#> = [u1r] (43)

<ire#> = [i2r] (26)

<irV> and <irrV> = [i1r] (13)

<ur>

<urC> = [u1r]

<urV> = [u3r] and [yu3r]

X = *bury, burial* [e1r]

Spelling	VrV Tense	Vre# Tense	VrC Lax	Vr# Lax	
<ar>	[a1r] L	[a3r] T	[o3r] T	[o3r] T	LTTT
<er>	[e1r] L	[e3r] T	[u1r] L	[u1r] L	LTLL
<ir>	[i1r] L	[i2r] T	[u1r] L	[u1r] L	LTLL
<or>	[o5r] T	[o5r] T	[o5r] T	[o5r] T	TTTT
<ur>	[(y)u3r] L	[(y)u3r] L	[u1r] L	[u1r] L	LLLL