

Frequency of Occurrence of Vowel Digraph, Trigraph, and Diphthong Spellings

There are a total of 1,417 of these spellings in the 6,100 words that were analyzed. The Percent column shows the percentage of the 1,417 that each spelling represents.

In this analysis in words like *tie*, *toe*, *shoe*, and *due* the vowels are not treated as a digraphs. Instead, they are treated as simple <i>, <o>, or <u> spellings with diacritic silent final <e>'s marking the long vowels. The one exception is the <ee> in words like *see* in which the <ee> is treated as a digraph, since it also occurs in initial and medial position, as in *eel* and *meet*.

Spelling	Frequency	Percent
<ae> Total	2	0.1%
<ae> as in 'Caesar, larvae'	2	
<ah> Total	3	0.2%
<ah> as in 'ah, hurrah'	2	
<ah> as in 'Sarah' (schwa)	1	
<ai> Total	16	1.1%
<ai> as in 'again, said' (short <e>)	3	
<ai> as in 'aisle'	1	
<ai> as in 'captain, villain' (schwa)	7	
<ai> as in 'portrait' (unstressed short <i>)	5	
<au> Total	42	3.0%
<au> as in 'cause, haunt'	39	
<au> as in 'laugh, aunt'	3	
<aw> Total	23	1.6%
<aw> as in 'draw, yawn'	23	
<awer> Total	1	0.1%
<awer> as in 'drawer'	1	
<ay> Total	9	0.6%

Spelling	Frequency	Percent
<ay> as in 'aye' (long <i>)	2	
<ay> as in 'Monday, Tuesday' (long <e>)	7	
<ayer> Total	1	0.1%
<ayer> as in 'prayer'	1	
<ea> Total	220	15.5%
<ea> as in 'beat, east'	143	
<ea> as in 'bread, jealous'	65	
<ea> as in 'break, great'	7	
<ea> as in 'ocean, sergeant'	5	
<eau> Total	4	0.3%
<eau> as in 'beauty'	2	
<eau> as in 'bureau, plateau'	2	
<ee> Total	131	9.2%
<ee> as in 'been' (short <i>)	1	
<ee> as in 'Beethoven'	1	
<ee> as in 'feed, week'	129	
<ei> Total	31	2.2%
<ei> as in 'ceiling, seize'	12	
<ei> as in 'eight, vein'	15	
<ei> as in 'foreign, sovereign' (short <i>)	3	
<ei> as in 'height'	1	
<eo> Total	6	0.4%
<eo> as in 'dungeon, surgeon' (schwa)	4	
<eo> as in 'people'	1	
<eo> as in 'yeoman'	1	

Spelling	Frequency	Percent
<eu> Total	4	0.3%
<eu> as in 'Europe'	2	
<eu> as in 'lieutenant, neutral'	2	
<ew> Total	32	
<ew> as in 'blew, threw'	26	
<ew> as in 'few, nephew'	4	
<ew> as in 'sew'	2	
<ey> Total	29	2.0%
<ey> as in 'alley, key'	16	
<ey> as in 'eye, geyser'	3	
<ey> as in 'prey, they'	10	
<ia> Total	33	2.3%
<ia> as in 'artificial, physician' (schwa)	30	
<ia> as in 'foliage, marriage' (unstressed short <i>)	3	
<ie> Total	41	2.9%
<ie> as in 'ancient, efficiency' (schwa)	11	
<ie> as in 'friend'	3	
<ie> as in 'handkerchief, mischief'	2	
<ie> as in 'piece, relief'	25	
<ieu> Total	1	0.1%
<ieu> as in 'lieutenant'	1	
<ieur> Total	1	0.1%
<ieur> as in 'monsieur'	1	
<iew> Total	3	0.2%

Spelling	Frequency	Percent
<iew> as in 'interview, view'	3	
<io> Total	236	16.7%
<io> as in 'caution, fraction' (schwa)	235	
<io> as in 'ratio'	1	
<iou> Total	13	0.9%
<iou> as in 'conscious, religious'	13	
<iu> Total	1	0.1%
<iu> as in 'Belgium' (schwa)	1	
<oa> Total	38	2.7%
<oa> as in 'broad'	4	
<oa> as in 'loaf, oak'	34	
<oe> Total	3	0.2%
<oe> as in 'does, doesn't'	2	
<oe> as in 'phoebe'	1	
<o'er> Total	1	0.1%
<o'er> as in 'o'er'	1	
<oh> Total	3	0.2%
<oh> as in 'John'	2	
<oh> as in 'oh'	1	
<oi> Total	33	2.3%
<oi> as in 'noise, oil'	33	
<oo> Total	93	6.6%
<oo> as in 'blood, flood'	3	
<oo> as in 'book, good'	34	
<oo> as in 'booth, goose'	56	

Spelling	Frequency	Percent
<oo> as in 'Roosevelt'	1	
<ou> Total	201	14.2%
<ou> as in 'bought, thought'	10	
<ou> as in 'cloud, mouth'	107	
<ou> as in 'could, should'	8	
<ou> as in 'double, tough'	13	
<ou> as in 'famous, various' (schwa)	43	
<ou> as in 'group, you'	12	
<ou> as in 'Houston'	1	
<ou> as in 'soul, though'	7	
<ow> Total	110	7.8%
<ow> as in 'acknowledge, knowledge'	2	
<ow> as in 'cow, flower'	45	
<ow> as in 'fellow, growth'	63	
<oy> Total	19	1.3%
<oy> as in 'enjoy, royal'	19	
<ue> Total	17	1.2%
<ue> as in 'avenue, Tuesday'	17	
<ui> Total	14	1.0%
<ui> as in 'building, built'	4	
<ui> as in 'fruit, nuisance'	10	
<uy> Total	3	0.2%
<uy> as in 'buy, guy'	3	