

Lesson 52: Y Rules

You always heard, “a, e, i, o, u, and sometimes y”, but never learned anything else about y. Y has one consonant sound and three vowel sounds. It is used as a silent vowel in two vowel teams and changes the sounds of “g” and “c” when it is after those letters. So Y is always important, no matter where it is in a word. These are the Phonics Rules to help you determine the sound of y in a word:

Phonics Rule: Y at the beginning of a word or a syllable is always a consonant and has the sound of “y” in yellow:

yellow	yell	yes	yarn
yard	yet	yam	yawn
yolk	yap	yodel	beyond
lawyer			

Phonics Rule: When “y” is the vowel in the middle of a word or in a syllable, it says the sound of short “i” as in the word chin.

hymn	gym	rhythm
syrup	physical	crystal
symbol	platypus	mystery
cylinder	syllable	system
symptom	symphony	lyric
physician	mysterious	myth
hypnotic	myth/o/lo/gi/cal	nymph
cymbals	hysterical	oxygen
Gypsy	amethyst	synonym
acrylic	bicycle	physique
syc/a/more	syringe	tricycle

Phonics Rule: Y at the at the end of a short word or syllable says the long “i “ sound:

by	my	try	sty
fly	why	gyrate	dry
shy	sly	spy	sky
pry	cry	spry	defy
ply	reply	prophecy	supply

Phonics Rule: Y at the end of a long word [two or more vowels or syllables] says long “e “sound:

happy	pretty	any	many
baby	army	hefty	tiny
candy	hurry	sloppy	energy
namely			

Phonics Rule: Y in the middle of a word or syllable says short i:

myth	hymn	gym	nymph
oxygen	cyst	mystery	platypus
mystic	pygmy	physical	gyst
cymbal			

Phonics Rule: Y walking with or paired with another vowel in (ay) and (ey) says nothing. It is the second and silent vowel of the vowel team:

ay:

pay	lay	may	hay
Ray	say	day	play
stay	pray	tray	clay
gray	away	bray	nay
flay			

ey= Long E:

key	monkey	turkey	honey
donkey	valley	alley	galley
barley	hockey	trolley	pulley
attorney	kidney	jersey	volley
baloney	parsley		

-ey can also says the sound of long “a”. It is used at the end of a root word:

they	hey	obey	prey
grey	whey	survey	convey
heyday	eyrie	abeyance	

Phonics Rule: Y after the letter g, as in “gy”, makes the g say “j”. This is the g’s soft sound. Y’s sound will depend on the other rules:

gym	gyp	gypsy	gyroscope
gyst	gyp/sum	gyrate	energy

Phonics Rule: Y after the letter c, as in “cy”, makes the c say “s”. This is the c’s soft sound:

cymbal	cypress	Stacy	cycle
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Phonics Rule: When Y is the only vowel in a word with a silent “e” It has the long “i” sound:

style	type	rhyme	enzyme
thyme	lyre	analyze	paralyze
electrolyte	bye	rye	

PRACTICE:

The youthful Yankee yachtsman sailed his yellow yacht (yŏt) last year.

Yesterday he ate **yummy yams** and egg **yolks**.

The **yew** is an evergreen tree with poisonous berries.

A **yardstick** is a measuring stick three feet in length.

This **hymn** has a slow **rhythm**.

Playing basketball in the **gym** is good **physical** exercise.

Do you like **syrup** on your pancakes?

Don't cry over broken **crystal**.

The flag is a **symbol** of our country.

Living things need **oxygen** to breathe.

A **platypus** is a very unusual animal.

Zacchaeus climbed up the **sycamore** tree to see JESUS.

I rode my **bicycle** in the driveway while my little sister rode her **tricycle**.



If you were born in February, your birthstone is the amethyst.

Young Yolanda

Young Yolanda yelled and yelled at the top of her voice. Her yellow pup began to yelp and yap as his ears begin to hurt, yet Yolanda did not stop yelling. Soon the pup began to howl as young Yolanda yelled. Her mother yearned for her to go out in the yard and to stop yelling. “Go ride your yak,” she said, “or run the track.”

Yet young Yolanda yelled. When dad came home, he said, “Why don’t you yodel instead of yell? Maybe you should sing Yule songs. Do something quiet using yellow yarn. Play with your yoyo.”

“Yes, yes,” yielded Yolanda, as she yawned. And then she went to bed.

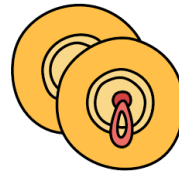
Symphony in the Gym



It was supposed to be an evening of music in the park, but the **symphony** orchestra was set up in the **gym** because of the stormy weather. Although the sound **system** in there was an ancient type, the sound was **crystal** clear. There was no air conditioning in the **gym**, and with people packed in there, it began to get stuffy and hot.

The concert began with the Battle **Hymn** of the Republic, followed by a lively Scottish **lyric**. The crowd loved it when they played a **mysterious Gypsy** melody with a **hypnotic rhythm**. The next was a song about a **mythical nymph** who rose out of the water to help sailors. The final song was a

march in military style with **cymbals** and drums and trumpets.



It is a **mystery** why the lights went out as the **cymbals** loudly crashed together. Some of the children became **hysterical** and began to cry, and some other people began to **physically** push and shove to get out of the doors and into the fresh air and **oxygen**. Because it was dark, the people in the orchestra could no longer read their music nor finish the song. However, as people ran to the cars, the thunder and lightning outside provided a magnificent ending to the concert.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

- 2 Timothy 1:7, King James Version