

## Simplify Spelling and Eliminate Needless Confusion

In the flow of speech, unstressed vowels could be spelled a variety of ways. Only one way is correct. The greatest challenge in mastering spelling is remembering which one to use. Classic dictionaries did not respell words for pronunciation. They add a few simple marks on the correctly spelled word. Spell to Write and Read follows the same idea. Students learn to think-to-spell each syllable to match the actual word and then read the word as they would speak normally. They learn simple markings to highlight basic spelling rules. For example, any vowel that makes the long sound at the end of a syllable is underlined. Contrast this classic approach with current dictionaries.

“A-E-O-U usually says /A-E-O-U/ at the end of a syllable.” — Rule 4

classic:	e-pit'- <u>o</u> - <u>me</u>	ma- <u>te</u> '-ri-al	a-rith'- <u>me</u> -tic	ses'- <u>a</u> - <u>me</u>
current:	ĭ-pit'- <u>ə</u> - <u>mē</u>	mə- <u>tĭ</u> '-r <u>ē</u> - <u>əl</u>	<u>ə</u> -rith'-m <u>ə</u> -tic	ses'- <u>ə</u> - <u>mē</u>

“I and Y usually says /i/ at the end of a syllable, but may say /I/.” — Rule 5

“English words do not end with /I/.” (We use the stand-in for I, the Y.) — Rule 6

classic:	en'- <u>e</u> -my	<u>e</u> -con'- <u>o</u> -my	<u>e</u> -mer'-gen-cy	<u>e</u> -ter'-ni-ty
current:	en'- <u>ə</u> - <u>mē</u>	ĭ-kon'- <u>ə</u> - <u>mē</u>	ĭ-m <u>ũr</u> '-g <u>ən</u> - <u>cē</u>	ĭ-t <u>ũr</u> '-n <u>ē</u> - <u>tē</u>

Which approach (classic or current) more strongly ties what we write to what we read?

Hint: These classically marked words harmonize with standard spelling but only 8 out of 30 vowels in current words do.

Is it surprising that even students declared "unteachable" have developed strong literacy skills with Spell to Write and Read training?