

A. When two vowels are together, then the first vowel is frequently long. The second vowel is silent.

boat      wheat      beat      main      loaf      jail

Exception would be the two letters “eu” at the beginning of a word. The, the second vowel “u” is usually long.

eugenics      eureka      Europe

B. A single vowel between consonants is frequently short in sound.

bot      bottom      wet      bet      bat      man  
ginger      mint      sit      advent      liturgy      glad

Exceptions would be when the consonant after the two vowels is “r”.

boar      wear      bear

C. If a word ends in “e”, and has a vowel before it and separated by a consonant, then that vowel is long.

gate      wine      fate      made      cube      mane  
dive      alive      lives      tribe      hive      knife  
life      envelope

There are many exceptions:

live      lives      give      justice

Also, when two vowels are together, and the word ends in “e”:

google



Or when there's more than one consonant between the vowel and the "e":

goggle      toggle      simple

D. When words end in the letters "ck", then the vowel before it is frequently short.

brick      sick      sack      black      lock      truck  
quick      wreak      attack      neck      stick      back

E. When a word starts with a vowel and followed by a consonant, then it is short:

apple      except      India      Opposite      under      young  
among      about      around      end      envelope      institution  
inside      on      out      otter      until      unusual  
yellow      ulcer      us      youth      yesterday      year  
your

Exceptions:

idea      open      unite      united      use      union  
utopia      usual

F. When the letter "y" is at the end of a word, it frequently sounds like a long "e".

energy      liturgy      harmony      merry      Mary      carry  
every      battery      happy

And then there's the word "eye".

And the word "movie".

