USAN drug name pronunciation guide

This pronunciation guide has been developed and approved by the USAN Council, and was revised at the USAN Council meeting, July 14, 2006, to facilitate pronunciation of USAN and will be used on all future Statements of Adoption.

Syllables

Syllable designations are based upon phonetic considerations. A prime mark (') follows the primary accent syllable; a double prime mark ("") follows any secondary accent syllable. All syllables are separated by a blank space. No diacritical marks are used.

Sounds and spelling

Vowels, long-spelling designations in all syllables except the last syllable unless indicated otherwise:

- a
  - ay
    - (may)
- e
  - ee
    - (lee) same in last syllable also
- i
  - eye
    - when by itself as a syllable
  - ye
    - when in conjunction with a consonant: lye

URL: https://www.ama-assn.org/about/united-states-adopted-names/usan-drug-name-pronunciation-guide
Copyright 1995 - 2021 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.
o
    | oh
    | (when by itself as a syllable)
    | oe
    | (when in conjunction with a consonant: toe)

u
    | ue
    | (cue, cure) same in last syllable also

y
    | ee
    | (opium, oh? pee um)
    | eye
    | (kanamycin, kan? a mye? sin)

Spelling designations in the last syllable: The vowels a, i and o assume long vowel sounds by the addition of an e at the end of the syllable.
   - rate
   - bite
   - toe

**Short vowel sounds**

Short vowel sounds receive no special designation in any syllable.

a
    | bat, mat, patch

e
    | bed, met, therapy, teratoma
i
  | bit, tip, irritate

o
  | got, not, bought

u
  | but, cut, wool

Digraphs

ah
  | father

aw
  | paw

oi
  | oil

oo
  | food

ou
  | ought
ow
  | out
oy
  | oil
ch
  | child
ng
  | sing
sh
  | shot
th
  | thought
wh
  | when

**Consonant sounds and examples**

b
  | bed
c
  | citrate (si? trate)
s
  | sing
  | osmotic (oz mot' ik)
    | aspirin (as' pir in)
    | vision (vi' zhun)

t
  | taught

v
  | vote

x
  | ox
  | xanthines (zan' theens)

y
  | yes

z
  | zinc

URL: https://www.ama-assn.org/about/united-states-adopted-names/us-an-drug-name-pronunciation-guide
Copyright 1995 - 2021 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.