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
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>o</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(when by itself as a syllable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(when in conjunction with a consonant: toe)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>u</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cue, cure) same in last syllable also</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(opium, oh? pee um)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(kanamycin, kan? a mye? sin)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bat, mat, patch</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>e</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bed, met, therapy, teratoma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)
carbon (kar? bon)
dog
flew
gore
digital (di? ji tal)
low
my
no
pit
queen (kween)
rot
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