

*Rules for Accent.*

RULE 1. Words of two syllables have but one accent. *Amen* and *fortnight* are exceptions.

NOTE. — Avoid pronouncing words of two syllables with equal stress.

RULE 2. Some words change their accent when the office of the word in the sentence changes. The accent usually falls on the last syllable when the word is used as a verb, and on the next to the last when it is used as a noun or as an adjective. *Contest'* is a verb; *con'test*, a noun.

*Rules for c and g.*

C and g are soft (marked *c* and *g*; that is, *c* has the sound of *s*, and *g* has the sound of *g* in *gin*) before *e*, *i*, or *y*. They are hard (marked *c* and *g*) in all other cases.

NOTE—This is one of the most important rules in pronunciation and in spelling. There are but few exceptions to this rule.

*Rule for x.*

X, unmarked, has the sound of *ks* in all cases except when beginning a word; as, *Xerxes*.

X, marked with detached bar, has the sound of *gz*; as in *exalt*, *exist*.

*Rules for Vowels in Unaccented Syllables.*

RULE 1. When an unaccented syllable ends in a consonant, its vowel, if single, has its regular short sound.

RULE 2. When a vowel constitutes or ends an unaccented syllable, it has the regular long sound shortened (marked as in *so-ci'è-ty*, *è-vent'*). The following are exceptions: *a*, which has its short Italian sound (as in *A-mer'i-cà*), and *i* and *y*, which usually have their short sounds (as in *dì-rect'*, *van'i-tỹ*).