

a as in ask, staff, pass, dance, &c.

1. Many cultivated speakers give to the vowel in words of this class the sound of *a* as in *and*. Another large class of speakers give in such words the sound of *a* as in *arm*. Those who prefer the first as the proper quality of the element should avoid the drawl or thin, prolonged sound which is sometimes given to it. Some eminent orthoëpists regard this vowel as of an intermediate quality between *a* as in *and* and *a* as in *arm*; and, as those speakers who hold this opinion would probably avoid the extremes of sound sometimes heard, there may be no practical objection to attempting such a pronunciation.

a as in fare, or e as in there.

2. The most eminent orthoëpists in this country and in England give to the vowel *a* or *e* in words of this class the sound of long *a* deprived of its vanishing element *e* (as heard in *pay*, *say*, &c., in which words the *y* may be considered as representing this vanishing element). This practice is better observed by Englishmen than by Americans. In the United States a somewhat lengthened form of *a* as in *and*, although not sanctioned by the Dictionaries, is more commonly given to words of this class, and is not, perhaps, to be condemned. The sound occurs only before *r*, and should be closely blended with the slight sound of *u*, as in *urn*, which is heard before *r* in the pronunciation of such words.

3. The compound long vowel sound, generally indicated by *u*, as in *use*, begins with the consonant *y* and ends with *oo*,—*yoo*.

This is the sound heard in the words *unit* (*yoo' nit*), *cube* (*kyoob*), *mute* (*myoot*), *educate* (*ed' yookate*), &c. But when the compound vowel *u*, or its equivalent, in a monosyllable or an accented syllable, follows *t*, *d*, *l*, *n*, *s*, *th*, or *j* (commonly), the initial element is slighted so as to become a very brief and indistinct sound of *i* as in *ill*; as in *tune*, *duke*, *lunar*, *nude*, *suit*, *enthusiast*, *jewel*. In both cases the elements composing the sound of *u* must be drawn together and pronounced in the same syllable.

After *r*, *ch*, and *sh* the initial element is omitted and only the final element *oo* (long or short) is heard, as in *rule* (*rööd*), *true* (*tröö*), *truth* (*trööth*), *fruit* (*frööd*), *grew* (*gröö*), *chew* (*chöö*), *sure* (*shöö*), *sugar* (*shöö-gar*). In some words the same effect is produced by *j*, as *jeune* (*je-jöön*).

4. When a short sound of *o* occurs before *ss*, *st*, *th*, or the sound of *f*, as in *cross*, *cost*, *broth*, *soft*, *cough*, and in some cases before *ng*, as in *long*, *strong*, it is the practice of the best speakers to give to the *o* a medium sound between *o* as in *on* and *a* as in *fall*.

5. Many speakers in England give to *e*, *ea*, *i*, and *y*, in a few words (as *herd*, *earth*, *girl*, *myrtle*) whose vowel element is commonly pronounced as *u* in *urn*, a sound very nearly like that of *e* as in *end*; but as this distinction is very generally disregarded in this country, and not consistently preserved in England, the sound has received no distinctive mark in the Vocabulary.

3. CAUTIONS AGAINST SOME COMMON ERRORS IN PRONUNCIATION.

1. Do not pronounce *ing* like *in*; as *ev'e'nin* for *ev'e'ning*, *writ'in* for *writ'ing*.
2. Do not pronounce *ow* like *ur* or *uh*; as *hol'tur* or *hol'tuh* for *hol'tow*, *shad'ur* or *shad'uh* for *shad'ow*.
3. Do not pronounce *ed* like *id* or *ud*; as *unit'id* or *unit'ud* for *unit'ed*, *provid'id* or *provid'ud* for *provided*.
4. Do not pronounce *ess* like *iss*; as *good'niss* for *good'ness*, *bold'niss* for *bold'ness*.