

**Laredo.** This city in Texas is pronounced *luh-RAY-doe*.

**Largesse.** Say *lar-JESS* or *lar-ZHESS*.

**Leavenworth.** The first part of this Kansas city name rhymes with *heaven*.

**Length.** Be sure to pronounce the *g*. Say *LENGTH* (**NOT:** *LENTH*).

**Liaison.** Say *LEE-uh-zahn* (**NOT:** *LAY-uh-zahn* or *lee-YAY-zahn*).

**Library.** Do not overlook the first *r*. Say *LIE-brer-ree* (**NOT:** *LIE-ber-ree*).

**Lilac.** Say *LIE-lock* (**NOT:** *LIE-lack*).

**Lima.** The city in Peru is pronounced *LEE-muh*. The city in Ohio is pronounced *LIE-muh* (as in *lima bean*).

**Literature.** This word may be pronounced as four syllables (*LIT-er-uh-chur*) or three (*LIT-rih-chur*).

**Live.** As a verb (as in “I live in Ohio”), *live* is pronounced to rhyme with *give*. As an adjective (as in “live ammunition”) or an adverb (as in “to broadcast live”), *live* is pronounced to rhyme with *dive*.

**Loath, loathe.** *Loath* means “reluctant”; pronounce it to rhyme with *oath*. *Loathe* means “to detest”; pronounce it to rhyme with *clothe*.

**Long-lived.** Pronounce the *i* in *lived* like the long *i* in *life*, not like the short *i* in *liver*. (See ¶823a.)

**Los Angeles.** Pronounce the *g* in *Angeles* as a *j* and the *es* as *us*. Say *lawss-ANN-juh-lus* (**NOT:** *lawss-ANG-guh-leez*).

**Louisiana.** Residents of the state say *loo-zee-YAN-nuh*. Others usually say *loo-wee-zee-YAN-nuh*.

**Louisville.** Residents of Kentucky say *LOO-vul*. Others usually say *LOO-wee-vill*.

**Lowering.** When this word is intended to mean “reducing the height, the value, or the amount of something,” pronounce it *LOH-er-ing*. When this word is intended to mean “dark, threatening, or gloomy,” pronounce it to rhyme with *cowering*.

**Mackinac.** The spelling for this island in Michigan does not reveal the correct pronunciation. Say *MACK-in-naw* (**NOT:** *MACK-in-nack*).

**Marseilles.** The city in France is pronounced *mar-SAY*. The city in Illinois is pronounced *mar-SAILS*.

**Mauve.** Say *MOHV* (**NOT:** *MAWV*).

**Mayoral.** Say *MAY-uh-rul* (**NOT:** *may-AW-rul*).

**Memento.** Note that this word begins with *me* (**NOT:** *mo*). Say *meh-MEN-toe* (**NOT:** *moe-MEN-toe*).

**Memoir.** Say *MEM-wahr*. Some people like to pronounce this word as *MEE-mwar*, but an anonymous wit has suggested that this unorthodox pronunciation should be used only when one is referring to an account that is exceptionally self-centered.

**Mendham.** See *-ham*.

**Metairie.** This suburb of New Orleans is pronounced *MET-uh-ree* (**NOT:** *meh-TAIR-ree*).

**Minuscule.** Say *MIH-nus-kyool* (**NOT:** *MINE-nus-kyool*).

**Minute.** When referring to a small period of time, say *MIN-nit*. When referring to something extremely small, say *my-NOOT*.

**Minutiae.** *Minutiae* (the plural form of *minutia*) should be pronounced *muh-NOO-shee-eye*. The singular form, *minutia*, is pronounced *muh-NOO-shee-uh*.

**Mischievous.** Do not insert an extra syllable when pronouncing this word. Say *MISS-chiv-vus* (**NOT:** *miss-CHEE-vee-yus*).

**Misled.** Do not be misled by the spelling of this word. Say *miss-LED* (**NOT:** *MYZ-zuhld*).

**Missouri.** Outsiders and a majority of the state residents say *mih-ZOOR-ee*, but other residents say *mih-ZOOR-uh*. The *ou* in *Missouri* is pronounced like the *oo* in *good*.

**Mobile.** The city in Alabama is pronounced *moe-BEEL*. The adjective (meaning “movable”) is pronounced *MOE-bul*. The common noun referring to a type of sculpture that moves is pronounced *MOE-beel*.

**Modem.** Say *MOE-dum*.

**Moot, mute.** Pronounce *moot* to rhyme with *loot*. Pronounce *mute* to rhyme with *cute*; say *MYOOT*.

**Moscow.** The city in Russia is pronounced *MAHSS-kow*. The city in Idaho is pronounced *MAHSS-koe*.

**Mount Desert.** This island in Maine is pronounced *mount-deh-ZERT* (**NOT:** *mount-DEZ-zert*).

**Mustache.** Despite the *ache* in *mustache*, there is no pain connected with this word. Say *MUS-tash* or *mu-STASH*.

**Myopic.** Say *my-OPP-ik* (**NOT:** *my-OPE-ik*).

**Nacogdoches.** This city in Texas is pronounced *nack-kuh-DOE-chez*.

**Naïveté.** Pronounce this word as three syllables. Say *nah-eev-TAY* or *nye-eev-TAY*. At one time this word was commonly written with a diaeresis (two dots) over the *i*—*naïveté*. The diaeresis was intended to make it clear that the *i* is to be pronounced as a separate syllable (and not like the *ai* in *maintain*).

**Natchitoches.** You might think this city in Louisiana was pronounced much like *Nacogdoches* above, but you’d be wrong. Ignore the spelling and say *NACK-kuh-tish*.

**Neither.** See *Either*.

**Nevada.** When residents of Nevada pronounce this name, they typically sound the first *a* like the *a* in *man*: *neh-VAA-duh*. Outsiders typically pronounce this name as *neh-VAH-duh*. And residents of Nevada County in Arkansas pronounce this name *nuh-VAY-duh*.

**New Orleans.** Residents of Louisiana typically say *noo-WAH-linz*; some even say *noo-wah-LEENZ*. Outsiders typically say *noo-ARR-linz*.

**Newark.** The city in New Jersey is pronounced *NOO-erk*. The city in Delaware is pronounced *NOO-ARK*.

**Newfoundland.** Residents of this Canadian province say *noo-finned-LAND*. Outsiders say *NOO-finned-lund*. No one should say *noo-FOUND-land*.

**Niche.** Say *NITCH* (**NOT:** *NEESH*).

**Nihilism.** Say *NYE-il-liz-um* (**NOT:** *NEE-il-liz-um*).

**Nuclear.** Say *NOO-klee-ur* (**NOT:** *NOO-kyoo-lur*).

**oad.** The words *load*, *road*, *toad*, and *goad* rhyme with *owed*, but *broad* rhymes with *sawed*.

**Often.** Ignore the *t*. Say *AWF-fen* (**NOT:** *AWF-ten*).