

Description	Students look at pronunciation of <i>ou</i> , learning that English is not a phonetic language
Lesson link	Use this activity after exercise 2
Time	10 minutes
Extra material	None

Instructions

- a Lesson 5D of *New English File Elementary Student's Book* contains a number of words with the vowel combination *ou*. This has a number of different pronunciations in English. Write these words from lesson 5D on the board:

<i>house</i>	<i>could</i>
<i>thought</i>	<i>moustache</i>
<i>bought</i>	<i>country</i>
<i>found</i>	<i>pronounce</i>

(Note that *pronounce* appears in the rubric to 2 Pronunciation b.)

- b Tell SS to turn to the Vowel sounds in the Sound Bank on p. 156 of *New English File Elementary Student's Book*, and tell them to use a piece of paper to cover up p. 157 (this page contains many of the answers to the exercise).
- c Ask SS to match the *ou* sounds in the words on the board with the correct phonetic symbols from the chart.
- d After two minutes stop SS and check the answers. Warn SS that English is not a phonetic language, and they will often have to learn the sounds of new words carefully.
- e As a final check ask SS why the *ou* sound in *moustache* is /ə/. The answer is that the stress in *moustache* is on the final syllable (*moustache*), and often sounds that are not stressed become /ə/. SS can check these words in their dictionary.

Answers	
/aʊ/	house, found, pronounce
/ɔː/	thought, bought
/ʌ/	country
/ʊ/	could
/ə/	moustache