SUMMARY OF ENGLISH TRANSCRIPTION RULES

Lyric Diction Workbook Series: www.stmpublishers.com

	VOWELS IN STRESSED AND SECONDARY STRESSED SYLLABLES													
[i]	[1]	[٤]	[æ]	[a]	*British [a]	[၁]	[u]	[ju]	[ʊ]	[A]	[3]			
eat	give	bed	glad	fond	after	all	soon	due	book	up	her			
breeze	build	guest	plaid	charm	class	fawns	through	new	could	blood	search			
we	myth	head		wander	Blanch	born	lose	tune	full	love	bird			
field	been	friend	$a + [\mathbf{f}]$	what	danced	August	flew	lute	woman	young	word			
ski	king	said	arrow	balm	rather	fought	blue	illumine	[3] + [L]		hurt			
people		many	carol	sorrow	plant	war	two	suit	worry		further			
		bury	carry	father	command	broad		enthuse	[ˈwʊn]					
			marry	Ah!	sample	moss		Spelling: l , ll , s , t , n , d , $th + u$ or ew						
			[ˈmærɪ]		_	water		Except con	sonant blen	ds with l: bl	ue [blu]			

Note the in-between vowels (in bold): [æ] [a] [a], [a] [b] [b], [i] [e] [e]. These vowels are not recommended for lyric diction (Marshall).

	DIPHTHONGS AND TRIPHTHONGS											
[a1]	[aɪə]	[٤1]	[31]	[av]	[aʊə]	[00]	[19]	[63]	[59]	[ʊə]	[jʊə]	
chime	fire	day	choice	cloud	flour	hope	cheer	air	adore	poor	pure	
sky	lyre	plain	joy	town	power	coast	dear	share	soar	tour	sure	
either		great					fierce	where	your, pour	sure		

	VOWELS UNSTRESSED SYLLABLES											
[1]	[A]	[3]	[ə]	[ʊ]	[o]/[u]	[1]	[00]	[ə]				
believe	agree	perceive	forgive	ful fill	obey	mercy	shadow	All other				
endure	complete	s ur prise	h or izon	[u] + [r]	provide	sing ing	[13]	unstressed				
divine	concern		t or mented	luxury	evaluate/duet	pit ie d	alw ay s	syllables:				
	uncertain		[0] + [t]	[ˈlʌgʒjʊn]	Final syllable	prair ie	[a1]	ball e rin a				
	up lifting		memory [ɔ]		purpose [ə]	marr ie s	paradise	[ˌbæləˈɾinə]				

	CONSONANTS											
Flipped [r]: intervocalic r	Retroflex [4]: r + vowel	[θ]	[ð]	រា	[3]	[ʧ]	[dʒ]	[ŋ]	[ŋg]	[j]	[w]	
merry [ˈmɛn]	dream [d.im]	three	this	share	vision	chair	gesture	young	youngest	yellow	when	
star above	ring [ɹɪŋ]	thing	father	precious	azure	ancient	age	sing	finger	music	wheat	
Dramatic <i>cr/gr</i>	spring [sp.11ŋ]	breath	breathe	devotion	occasion	search	gentle	singer		beyond	whether	
cruel [ˈkɾuəl]	every [ˈʔɛv.ɪɪ]		*with		treasure	choose	judge	ink				
grim [grɪm]			*Marshall									
r + [u] is [ru]	Silent r:	Glottal	stops are	not included	d in game	Changes in voicing occur with final consonants						
fruit [frut]	r + consonant		Glottal	stop [?]		[t]	[d]	[s]	[z]	[0]	[ð]	
prove [pruv]	heart [hat]		age [[Se1q2]		missed	pleased	notes	leaves	path	paths	
Initial [rru]	[bca] brows		eyes [ʔaɪz]			looked	loved	works	birds	youth	youths	
ruby [ˈrrubɪ]	final r		own [ʔoʊn]			Voicing	Voicing matches previous consonant			Voiced when plural		
thr: thread [θrεd]	river [ˈ.ɪɪvə]	The <i>r</i> -c	olored sch	wa [&] is no	ot recomme	nded for ly	ric diction	. Stress n	narks are not	included in	n game.	

*WHEN TO SING [α]: Specified spellings that have an [æ] sound in American English are pronounced with dark [α] for lyric diction

I. Spelling: a + [f], [s], [ntf], [ns], th (Memory aid: after class Blanch danced rather fast)

a + [f]			l	$\eta + [s]$		a +	[ntʃ]	а	+ [ns]	a + th	
after	[ˈʔɑftə]	ask	[?ask]	pass	[pas]	blanch	[blantʃ]	chance	[tʃans]	bath	[bαθ]
laugh	[laf]	fast	[fast]	past	[past]	branches	[ˈb.ɪantʃ]	dance	[dans]	path	[pαθ]
staff	[staf]	last	[last]	vast	[vast]	ranch	[.ɪantʃ]	*trance	[t.ans]	rather	[ˈɹɑðə]

*Prefix trans- is transcribed with [æ]

II. Spellings -and, -ant and -ample are [a] in the following words only:

-and: command, demand, reprimand -ant: can't, shan't, aunt, advantage, chant, enchant, grant, plant, slant -ample: sample, example

III. Exceptions to section I: words with an [æ] pronunciation (additional exceptions apply)

a+f	a+s		a + ns	a + th	May be either [æ] or [a]		
baffle	aspect	fantastic	cancel	athlete	alas	contrast	
daffodil	aspiration	hast	circumstance	fathom	ant	enhance	
graphic	cascade	passage	expanse	gather	asp	lass	
scaffold	chastise	passenger	fancy	hath	aspen	mass	
riffraff	classic	passive	romance	math	ass	pasture	
traffic	classify	sarcastic	stance	pathogen	blaspheme	ranch	

Textbook authority: The Singer's Manual of English Diction by Madeleine Marshall