



A Phonological Insight into Different Pronunciations of English Letters Beginning with "H, I, J, and K"

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Abstract

The present research article is a phonological insight into different pronunciations of English letters beginning with "H, I, J and K". The same letters / group of same letters beginning with the letters "H, I, J and K" in different English words, having different pronunciations, are eleven, one, six and six in numbers respectively. Total twenty-four same letters / group of same letters have been studied in the present research, elucidating with ninety-three examples including English words and their phonetic transcriptions. The contents under the headings of background of the study, hypothesis, objectives, sources of data collection, significance of the study, limitations of the study, literature review, research design, samples and sampling techniques, methods of data collection and methods of data analysis have been discussed. The findings and discussion of the present study will help the readers in developing the domination in the select segment of illustration. The concluding part and the references have been appended.

Keywords: Domination, Illustration, Letters, Phonological, Pronunciations

1. INTRODUCTION

The present research article studies the twenty-four same letters / group of same letters beginning with the letters "H, I, J and K" in different English words having different pronunciations, i.e., ha, hae, hai, he, hea, hei, hi, ho, hou, hu, hy, i, ja, je, jea, jo, jou, ju, ka, ke, ki, kni, kno and ku which have been presented with examples including ninety-three English words and their phonetic transcriptions. This study merely shows that though the letters or group of

letters in different English words are same, they are pronounced differently. Due to this fact, the learners of English language have to know the pronunciation of each English word specifically by referring the good English dictionaries. This research is purely an attempt to make the learners of English language know few such english letters having different pronunciations.

1.1 Hypothesis

There are same letters / group of same letters beginning with the letters “H, I, J and K” in different English words having different pronunciations.

1.2 Objectives

- To provide the theoretical underpinning including background of the study, hypothesis, sources of data collection, significance of the study, limitations of the study, literature review and the research methodology.
- To enlist the same letters / group of same letters beginning with the letters “H, I, J and K” in different English words having different pronunciations with the examples including English words and their phonetic transcriptions.
- To conclude by providing better outcome.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The present study is significant as it helps the readers in developing the domination in the select segment of illustration vis-à-vis the same letters / group of same letters beginning with the letters “H, I, J and K” in different English words having different pronunciations.

1.4 Limitations of the Study

There are twenty-six letters in English language from ‘A’ to ‘Z’ but in the present study, only four letters are selected, i.e., “H, I, J and K”. To say more clearly, the present study is limited merely to find out the same letters / group of same letters beginning with the letters “H, I, J and K” in different English words having different pronunciations with the presentation of examples including English words and their phonetic transcriptions.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

A lot of research has been undertaken on phonological insights into different pronunciations of English letters till now. To name a few research articles are: *Spelling and Phonetic Inconsistencies in English: A Problem for Learners of English as a Foreign/Second Language* by Umera-Okeke, Nneka; *Aspects of Inconsistencies in the Phonology of English Language* by Ahar, Msuega, et. al.; *English Spelling and Pronunciation-A Brief Study* by Rao, V. Chandra; *The Relationship between Spelling and Pronunciation in English Language* by Khansir, A. A. & Tajeri Mojtaba; and *Spelling and Pronunciation Errors in English Language* by Singh, Preeti. However, not a single research conforms the present research, i.e., A Phonological Insight into Different Pronunciations of English Letters Beginning with “H, I, J and K”. Therefore, the present research is a novel research.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

In the present study, the Qualitative Research Design is used.

3.2 Samples and Sampling Techniques

The samples are the letters “H, I, J and K” beginning same letters / group of same letters in different English words having different pronunciations and the select sampling technique is Deliberate Sampling Method.

3.3 Methods of Data Collection

To attain the set objectives, the study used document analysis as a prime data gathering tool by referring both online and offline artifacts like books, dictionaries, research journals and internet.

3.4 Methods of Data Analysis

It encompasses mainly the qualitative analysis.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section has been segmented into four sub-sections to respond to four research questions as follows:

4.1 Findings and Discussion Regarding Letter ‘H’

The same letters / group of same letters, i.e., ‘ha’ in different English words like **H**abitable, **H**abitual, **H**alf, **H**all, **H**alo and **H**are have different pronunciations, i.e., /hæ/ (/’**hæ**bitəbl/), /hə/ (/’**hə**’bitfuəl/), /hɑ:/ (/’**hɑ**:f/), /hɔ:/ (/’**hɔ**:l/), /heɪ/ (/’**heɪ**ləʊ/) and /heə/ (/’**heə**(r)/). In similar tune with the above statement, the eleven same letters / group of same letters beginning with the letter ‘H’ in different English words, having different pronunciations, have been elucidated in tabular form with examples including English words and their phonetic transcriptions as follows:

Table-1. Letter ‘H’ and Details

S.N.	Same Letters / Group of Same Letters	Different Pronunciations	Examples English Words	Phonetic Transcriptions
1	ha	/hæ/	In h abitant	/ɪn’ hæ bitənt/
		/heɪ/	In h ale	/ɪn’ heɪ /
		/hæ/	Un h appy	/ʌn’ hæ pi/
		/hɑ:/	Un h armed	/ʌn’ hɑ :md/
2	hae	/hi:/	H aemophilic	/’ hi :mə’filiæk/
		/he/	H aemorrhage	/’ he mərɪdʒ/
3	hai	/haɪ/	H aiiku	/’ haɪ ku:/
		/heɪ/	H ail	/’ heɪ /
		/heə/	H air	/’ heə (r)/
4	he	/he/	H eckle	/’ he kl/
		/hɪ/	H egemony	/’ hi ’dʒeməni/
		/hə/	H ello	/’ hə ’ləʊ/
		/hɜ:/	H erbaceous	/’ hɜ :’beɪʃəs/
		/hɪə/	H ereafter	/’ hiə ’ɑ:ftə(r)/
		/hɪə/	In h erent	/ɪn’ hiə rənt/
		/he/	In h erit	/ɪn’ he rɪt/

5	hea	/hi:/	Healer	/ 'hi:lə(r)/		
		/he/	Health	/ heIθ/		
		/hɪə/	Hearing	/ 'hɪərɪŋ/		
		/hɑ:/	Heart	/ hɑ:t/		
		/he/	Over heads	/ 'əʊvəhedz/		
		/hɪə/	Over hear	/ ,əʊvə'hiə(r)/		
		/he/	Un healthy	/ ʌn'heIθi/		
		/hɜ:/	Un heard	/ ʌn'hɜ:d/		
		6	hei	/he/	Heifer	/ 'hefə(r)/
				/ha/	Height	/ haɪt/
				/eə/	Heir	/ eə(r)/
7	hi	/haɪ/	Hibernate	/ 'haɪbəneɪt/		
		/hɪ/	Hiccup	/ 'hɪkʌp/		
		/hɪ/	Pro hibit	/ prə'hibɪt/		
		/ɪ/	Pro hibition	/ ,prəʊɪ'biʃn/		
8	ho	/hɒ/	Hob	/ hɒb/		
		/həʊ/	Homeopath	/ 'həʊmiəpæθ/		
		/hə/	Homologous	/ hə'mɒləgəs/		
		/ha/	Hound	/ haʊnd/		
9	hou	/haʊ/	Hound	/ haʊnd/		
		/aʊə/	Hour	/ 'aʊə(r)/		
10	hu	/hʌ/	Hub	/ hʌb/		
		/hju:/	Hubris	/ 'hju:brɪs/		
11	hy	/haɪ/	Hydrant	/ 'haɪdrənt/		
		/hɪ/	Hypocrisy	/ hɪ'pɒkrəsi/		

The above table shows that the 'ha', 'hae', 'hai', 'he', 'hea', 'hei', 'hi', 'ho', 'hou', 'hu' and 'hy' are the eleven same letters / group of same letters in different English words, having different pronunciations and the examples including English words and their phonetic transcriptions most appropriately approve the same.

4.2 Findings and Discussion Regarding Letter ‘I’

The same letters / group of same letters, i.e., ‘i’ in different English words like **I**dealism, **I**diocrasy and **I**mpasse have different pronunciations, i.e., /aɪ/ (/aɪ'di:əlɪzəm/), /ɪ/ (/ɪ'diə'sɪŋkrəsi/) and /æ/ (/æmpɑ:s/). The same in above statement has been given in tabular form with examples including English words and their phonetic transcriptions as follows:

Table-2. Letter ‘I’ and Details

S.N.	Same Letters / Group of Same Letters	Different Pronunciations	Examples	
			English Words	Phonetic Transcriptions
1	i	/aɪ/	I dealism	/aɪ'di:əlɪzəm/
		/ɪ/	I diocrasy	/ɪ'diə'sɪŋkrəsi/
		/æ/	I mpasse	/æmpɑ:s/

In the above table, ‘i’ is the one same letter in different English words, having different pronunciations and the given examples including English words and their phonetic transcriptions validate the same.

4.3 Findings and Discussion Regarding Letter ‘J’

The same letters / group of same letters, i.e., ‘ju’ in different English words like **I**njured, **I**njurious, **J**ubilant and **J**udgement have different pronunciations, i.e., /dʒə/ (/ɪn'dʒəd/), /dʒʊə/ (/ɪn'dʒʊəriəs/), /dʒu:/ (/dʒu:bɪlənt/) and /dʒʌ/ (/dʒʌdʒmənt/). In similar tune with the above statement, the six same letters / group of same letters beginning with the letter ‘J’ in different English words, having different pronunciations, have been elucidated in tabular form with examples including English words and their phonetic transcriptions as follows:

Table-3. Letter ‘J’ and Details

S.N.	Same Letters / Group of Same Letters	Different Pronunciations	Examples	
			English Words	Phonetic Transcriptions
1	ja	/dʒæ/	J acaranda	/dʒækə'rændə/
		/dʒə/	J acuzzi	/dʒə'ku:zi/

		/dʒeɪ/	J ade	/ dʒ eɪd/
		/dʒɑː/	J ar	/ dʒ ɑː(r)/
2	je	/dʒe/	J ellyfish	/ ' dʒ elɪfɪʃ/
		/dʒɜː/	J erk	/ dʒ ɜːk/
		/dʒɪ/	Ob J ect	/ 'ɒb dʒ ɪkt/
		/dʒe/	Ob J ect	/ əb' dʒ ekt/
		/dʒɪ/	Sub J ect	/ 'sʌb dʒ ɪkt/
		/dʒe/	Sub J ect	/ səb' dʒ ekt/
3	jea	/dʒe/	J ealous	/ ' dʒ eɪləs/
		/dʒiː/	J eans	/ dʒ iːnz/
4	jo	/dʒɒ/	J olly	/ ' dʒ ɒli/
		/dʒəʊ/	J olt	/ dʒ əʊlt/
		/dʒə/	M J or	/ 'meɪ dʒ (r)/
		/dʒɒ/	M J ority	/ mə' dʒ rəti/
5	jou	/dʒuː/	J oule	/ dʒ uːl/
		/dʒɜː/	J ournal	/ ' dʒ ɜːnl/
6	ju	/dʒu/	J udicial	/ dʒ u' dɪʃl/
		/dʒʊə/	J urisdiction	/ , dʒ ʊəɪs' dɪkʃn/
		/dʒu/	Pre J udice	/ 'pre dʒ udɪs/
		/dʒə/	Pre J udiced	/ 'pre dʒ ɪdɪst/

The examples including English words and their phonetic transcriptions in the above table justify that the 'ja', 'je', 'jea', 'jo', 'jou' and 'ju' are the six same letters / group of same letters in different English words having different pronunciations.

4.4 Findings and Discussion Regarding Letter 'K'

The same letters / group of same letters, i.e., 'ka' in different English words like **K**aleidoscope, **K**angaroo and **K**aolin have different pronunciations, i.e., /kə/ (/ **k**ə'laɪdəskəʊp/), /kæ/ (/ **k**æŋgə'ruː/) and /keɪ/ (/ '**k**eɪəlɪn/). In similar tune with the aforementioned statement, the six same letters / group of same letters beginning with the letter 'K' in different English words, having different pronunciations, have been elucidated in tabular form with examples including English words and their phonetic transcriptions as follows:

Table-4. Letter ‘K’ and Details

S.N.	Same Letters / Group of Same Letters	Different Pronunciations	Examples	
			English Words	Phonetic Transcriptions
1	ka	/kɪ/	Break <u>ka</u> ge	/ˈbreɪ <u>kɪ</u> dʒ/
		/kə/	Brea <u>ka</u> way	/ˈbreɪ <u>kə</u> weɪ/
2	Ke	/ke/	<u>Ke</u> nnel	/ˈ <u>ke</u> nɪ/
		/kɜː/	<u>Ke</u> rb	/ <u>kɜː</u> b/
		/kə/	Mar <u>ke</u> r	/ˈmɑː <u>kə</u> (r)/
		/kɪ/	Mar <u>ke</u> t	/ˈmɑː <u>kɪ</u> t/
3	Ki	/kɪ/	<u>Ki</u> lohertz	/ˈ <u>kɪ</u> ləhɜːts/
		/kaɪ/	<u>Ki</u> nd	/ <u>kaɪ</u> nd/
4	Kni	/nɪ/	<u>Kni</u> ckers	/ˈ <u>nɪ</u> kəz/
		/naɪ/	<u>Kn</u> ife	/ <u>naɪ</u> f/
5	Kno	/nɒ/	<u>Kn</u> ot	/ <u>nɒ</u> t/
		/nə/	<u>Kn</u> ow	/ <u>nə</u> ʊ/
6	Ku	/kjuː/	<u>Ku</u> dos	/ˈ <u>kjuː</u> dɒs/
		/kʌ/	<u>Ku</u> ng fu	/ˈ <u>kʌŋ</u> ˈfuː/

As shown in the above table, ‘ka’, ‘ke’, ‘ki’, ‘kni’, ‘kno’ and ‘ku’ are the six same letters / group of same letters in different English words having different pronunciations and the given examples including English words and their phonetic transcriptions appropriately suit the same.

5. CONCLUSION

In the present research, the twenty-four same letters / group of same letters in different English words, i.e., ha, hae, hai, he, hea, hei, hi, ho, hou, hu, hy, i, ja, je, jea, jo, jou, ju, ka, ke, ki, kni, kno and ku have been studied. It is undoubtedly clear that they begin with the letters “H, I, J and K” and have different pronunciations. The given ninety-three examples of English words and their phonetic transcriptions most suitably help in testing the hypothesis and achieving the objectives. In a nutshell, the present research gives a good phonological insight into the different pronunciations of English letters beginning with “H, I, J and K” which will help the readers in developing the domination in the select segment of illustration.

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