

# BBN–ANG–242 Phonology

## 6. Shortening rules, lengthening environments

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## *Pronunciation practice*

divíne	–	divínity
gráve	–	grávity
insáne	–	insánity
sincére	–	sincérity
sevére	–	sevérity
obscéne	–	obscénity
opáque	–	opácitý
divíde	–	divísible
compáre	–	compárisón
sóle	–	sólitude
provóke	–	provócative
histórian	–	histórical
héro	–	héroine

# Shortening rules

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So, we know that:

- If a stressed single vowel-letter stands in **covered** graphic position, it is *normally* pronounced as a **checked** vowel.
- If a stressed single vowel-letter stands in **free** graphic position, it is *normally* pronounced as a **free** vowel.

# Shortening rules

So, we know that:

- If a stressed single vowel-letter stands in **covered** graphic position, it is *normally* pronounced as a **checked** vowel.
- If a stressed single vowel-letter stands in **free** graphic position, it is *normally* pronounced as a **free** vowel **unless some shortening rule applies to it.**

# Shortening rules

- Trisyllabic Shortening
- Shortening by ending
- Shortening by free U
- CiV Shortening

# Shortening rule I

## Trisyllabic Shortening:

If the stressed vowel-letter (excepting *u*) is in the 3rd (or earlier) syllable from the end of the word, it is pronounced as a checked vowel (or its pre-R counterpart), i.e. it is **short**.

# Shortening rule I

## Trisyllabic Shortening

			á	ni	mal
			pá	ro	dy
		e	ván	ge	list
gráteful	–		grá	ti	tude
návy	–		ná	vi	gate
fáble	–		fá	bu	lous
compáre	–	com	pá	ri	son
			<b>3</b>	2	1



# Shortening rule I

## Trisyllabic Shortening

			ă	ni	mal
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compăre	–	com	pă	ri	son
			<b>3</b>	2	1
			/a/		

# Shortening rule I

## Trisyllabic Shortening

			hě	si	tate
			crě	di	ble
		A	mě	ri	ca
		in	tě	lli	gent
		mo	lě	cu	lar
hēro	–		hě	ro	ine
sevēre	–	se	vě	ri	ty
			<b>3</b>	2	1
			/ɛ/		

# Shortening rule I

## Trisyllabic Shortening

			mĭ	ra	cle
			ĭ	ber	ty
		a	bĭ	li	ty
sĭgn	–		sĭg	na	ture
tĭrant	–		tĭ	ra	nny
divĭne	–	di	vĭ	ni	ty
divĭde	–	di	vĭ	si	ble
			<b>3</b>	2	1
			/ɪ/		

# Shortening rule I

## Trisyllabic Shortening

			ō	pe	ra
			hō	li	day
			pō	ssi	ble
		phi	lō	so	phy
sōle	–		sō	li	tude
provōke	–	pro	vō	ca	tive
histōrian	–	hi	stō	ri	cal

**3**

2

1

/ɔ/

# Shortening rule I

## Trisyllabic Shortening

*There are, of course, exceptions:*

e.g. fāvourite  
Ābraham  
īsolate  
mīcrophone  
dīnosaur  
nōtify

# Shortening rule I

## Trisyllabic Shortening

*What about the following words?*

lāzy – lāziness

crīme – crīminal

lāzy – lāzily

grāve – grāvity

pīlot – pīloting

# Shortening rule I

## Trisyllabic Shortening

*What about the following words?*

lāzy – lāzi#ness

2 1    2 1    1

lāzy – lāzi#ly

2 1    2 1    1

pīlot – pīlot#ing

2 1    2 1    1

crīme – crīmin+al

1            3 2 1

grāve – grāv+ity

1            3 2 1

**strong (#) vs. weak (+) boundary suffixes**

# Shortening rule II

## Shortening by ending:

If the stressed vowel-letter (excepting *u*) is followed by a shortening ending, it is pronounced as a checked vowel (or its pre-R counterpart), i.e. it is **short**.

The shortening endings are: *-ic*, *-id*, *-ish<sub>V/N</sub>*, *-it*, *-et*, *-el*



# Shortening rule II

## Shortening by ending

		pānic
stāte	–	stātic
mētre	–	mētric
tōne	–	tōnic
allophōne	–	allophōnic
analȳze	–	analȳtic

# Shortening rule II

## Shortening by ending

<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>I=Y</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>U</b>
pānic	phonētic	analyťtic	tōnic	--
fābric	mētric	cītric	erōtic	
vālid	intrēpid	vīvid	sōlid	
plānet	ēdit	līmit	prōphēt	
pānel	lēvel	chīsel	nōvel	
vānish	blēmish	fīnish	pōlish (v.)	

# Shortening rule III

## Shortening by free U:

If the stressed vowel-letter (excepting *u*) is followed by a pronounced *u* which is in free graphic position, it is pronounced as a checked vowel (or its pre-R counterpart), i.e. it is **short**.

# Shortening rule III

## Shortening by free U

měu

věue

stāus vs. stātue

Jēsus vs. Jēsuit

grāde – grādual

rīte – rītual

# Shortening rule III

## Shortening by free U

**A**

grādual  
vāue

**E**

schēdule  
gēnuine  
mēnu

**I=Y**

fīgure  
vīsuul  
contīnuue

**O**

mōdule

**U**

--

# Shortening rule IV

## CiV Shortening/“Idiot-rule”:

If the stressed vowel-letter *i* is followed by a consonant-letter plus an *i* (or *y* or *e*) plus a vowel, it is pronounced as a checked vowel (or its pre-R counterpart), i.e. it is **short**.

# Shortening rule IV

## CiV Shortening

	ĩ	dio	t
v	ĩ	sio	n
fam	ĩ	lia	r
in	ĩ	tia	te
coal	ĩ	tio	n
Virg	ĩ	nia	
Bol	ĩ	via	

í CiV

/i/

# Lengthening rules



# Lengthening rules

- CiV Lengthening
- Prevocalic Lengthening

# Lengthening rule I

## CiV Lengthening:

If a stressed vowel-letter other than *i* is followed by a consonant-letter plus an *i* (or *y* or *e*) plus a vowel, it is pronounced as a free vowel (or its pre-R counterpart), i.e. it is “**long**”.

# Lengthening rule I

## CiV Lengthening

Spelling	FREE/SMOOTH	CHECKED
A	mānia, rādiāte, aquārium	
E	sēnior, mēdiāte, cēreal	
I/Y		īdiot, vīsiōn, famīliar, Virgīnia
O	phōbia, ōpiūm, Victōria	
U	jūnior, inclūsiōn, spūriōs	

# Lengthening rule II

## Prevocalic Lengthening:

If a vowel is in prevocalic position (i.e. followed by another vowel), it is always a free vowel, i.e. it is “**long**”.

# Lengthening rule II

## Prevocalic Lengthening

chaos /k<sup>é</sup>j<sub>ɹ</sub>s/

mosaic /m<sup>ə</sup>wz<sup>é</sup>j<sub>ɪ</sub>k/

poetry /p<sup>ə</sup>w<sup>ə</sup>trɪj/

heroic /hɪr<sup>ə</sup>wɪ<sub>ɪ</sub>k/

violate /v<sup>ə</sup>j<sub>ə</sub>leɪt/

Noel /n<sup>ə</sup>w<sub>ə</sub>l/

algebra /áldʒəbr<sup>ə</sup>/ *vs.* algebraic /áldʒəbr<sup>é</sup>j<sub>ɪ</sub>k/

# Terms to check

**Trisyllabic Shortening** (*harmadszótagi rövidülés*)

**Shortening by ending** (*rövidülés végződés által*)

**Shortening by free U** (*rövidülés szabad helyzetű u előtt*)

**CiV Shortening** (*CiV rövidülés*)

**CiV Lengthening** (*CiV nyúlás*)

**Prevocalic Lengthening** (*prevokalikus / magánhangzó előtti nyúlás*)

# Recommended reading

- **Graphic positions**  
(<http://seas3.elte.hu/phono/notes/141-graphicposition.html>)