

Exercise 2: Pronunciations

1. Pronounce the following words.

bite

give

love

some

come

gone

melon

theme

dine

hate

none

there

done

have

one

were

fate

impede

open

where

2. Explain why you pronounced each word the way you did.

In English, when a word ends in e, the preceding vowel sound is long (*hate, fate, theme, impede, dine, bite*); but there are many notable exceptions to this rule (*come, done, give, gone, have, love, none, one, some, there, were, where*). In some cases, there aren't any rules at all; in multisyllabic English words with vowel-consonant-vowel patterns, such as *open* or *melon*, the syllables may legally split before the consonant (*o-pen*) or after the consonant (*mel-on*). Most skilled readers can easily pronounce the list of words, even if they cannot articulate the rules. They simply know how each word should be said.