***THE ‘SILENT’ I***

After the following consonants, i is read/pronounced more liek a hissing sound. It is very soft.

**p** capi (leaders) **b** arabi (Arabs)

**f** pantofi (shoes) **v** sclavi (slaves)

**ţ** colţi (fangs) **z** englezi (English men)

**j** coji (peels) **m** dormi (you sleep)

**n** americani (Americans) **l** soli (messangers)

**r** croitori (tailors)

***Note:*** However, if **i** appears after a pair of consonants where the latter is **l** or **r**, it is pronounced as a full **i**.

**cr+i** sacri (sacred-pl) **dr+i** codri (woods)

**tr+i** metri (meters) **fl+i** afli (you find out)

**pl+i** umpli (you fill up) **bl+i** umbli (you walk)

**rl+i** urli (you howl)

***C and G***

When followed by the vowels **e** and **i**, C is pronounced as in **chess** or **cheese.** A hard **c** followed by the vowels  **e** and **i** is marked in writing by **che** and **chi** and pronounced as in **cat** or **kiss.**

**c+e** cerere (application) as in chess

**c+i** cină (dinner) cheese

**ch+e** chelner (waiter) cat

**ch+i** chibrit (match) kiss

When G is followed by the vowels **e** and **i**, it is pronounced as in **generous** or **gym.** A hard g followed by the vowels  **e** and **i** is marked in writing by **ghe** and **ghi** and pronounced as in **get** or **gear.**

**g+e** generos as in generous

**g+i** ginere (son in law) gym

**gh+e** ghete (boots) get

**gh+i** ghinion (bad luck) gear

***DIPHTHONGS***

They represent two vowels pronounced as a single syllable.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Diphtong** | **example** | **example** | **example** |
| **ea** | **dimineață** | **șosea** | **greață** |
| **eo** | **vreodată** | **aoleo!** | **vreo** |
| **ia** | **iarbă** | **fiară** | **băiat** |
| **ie** | **ieri** | **miere** | **femeie** |
| **io** | **Iordania** | **iodură** | **creion** |
| **iu** | **iute** | **iunie** | **preludiu** |
| **oa** | **școală** | **noapte** | **oameni** |
| **ua** | **ploua** | **cafea** | **ziua** |
| **uă** | **ouă** | **nouă** | **două** |
| **ai** | **mai** | **scai** | **tramvai** |
| **ăi** | **văi** | **răi** | **tăi** |
| **âi** | **câine** | **pâine** | **mâine** |
| **ei** | **lei** | **ulei** | **trei** |
| **ii** | **copii** | **fotolii** | **colocvii** |
| **oi** | **doi** | **noi** | **ploi** |
| **ui** | **pui** | **cuib** | **spui** |
| **au** | **adaug** | **dau** | **august** |
| **ău** | **rău** | **tău** | **său** |
| **âu** | **râu** | **brâu** | **molâu** |
| **eu** | **mereu** | **leu** | **greu** |
| **iu** | **știu** | **fiu** | **viu** |
| **ou** | **bou** | **cadou** | **stilou** |

***VOWELS IN HIATUS***

They appear in neighbouring syllables and are pronounced separately.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **i-e** | **filosofie** | **psihologie** | **antropologie** |
| **i-a** | **dialog** | **diamant** | **dialoga** |
| **i-i** | **știință** | **ființă** | **miime** |
| **i-o** | **miopie** | **dioptrie** | **diodă** |
| **e-a** | **reacție** | **creație** | **realizare** |
| **e-e** | **alee** | **pusee** | **moschee** |
| **e-u** | **european** | **Europa** | **euforie** |
| **a-i** | **aici** | **cais** | **hain** |
| **a-u** | **autor** | **autograf** | **autogară** |
| **ă-i** | **făină** | **străină** | **găină** |
| **o-i** | **voință** | **troiță** | **foiță** |
| **u-u** | **continuu** | **ambiguu** | **asiduu** |
| **o-o** | **alcool** | **zoologie** | **cooperare** |

***TRIPHTHONGS***

They represent three consequent vowels pronounced as one syllable.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **eau** | **vreau** | **apăreau** | **tăceau** |
| **eai** | **stăteai** | **spuneai** | **păreai** |
| **oai** | **englezoaică** | **turcoaică** | **spanioloaică** |
| **iai** | **trăiai** | **construiai** | **suiai** |
| **iau** | **miau** | **iau** | **trăiau** |
| **iei** | **miei** | **piei** | **iei** |
| **ioa** | **creioane** | **inimioară** | **aripioară** |