

Two Vowels Go Walking Rule

When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking.
That's why...

ee = ea

oe = oa

ae = ai = ay

The letters “ae” and “oe” are seldom seen together in the middle of a word (ex: cane or cone rather than caen or coen). Instead, expect to see the E at the end of the word or the ‘ai’ or “oa” combinations in the middle of a word. (Ex: rain, loan).

The “two vowels go walking rule” *does not* apply to every two vowel combination. In fact, it usually only applies to the vowel combinations listed above.

When spelling a word with the /ae/ sound at the end, it is usually best to use the letters “ay” (ex: lay, pay day).

Words for practicing the Two Vowels Go Walking (2VGW) Rule

sail
fear
road
day
beast
goat
preach
stay
vail
foam
gleam
meal

cheap
bait
spray
leave
toast
throat
faint
crate
foal
fail
seam
soak

goat
peace
loan
pain
pay
grain
tray
fray
vain
gloat
mail
seal