

Guide to Quikscript's ·Ah, ·Awl, ·On

If you are writing privately, you are of course free to spell however you like. But for communication with other Quikscript users, some standardisation makes reading easier for everyone.

In many English-speaking countries, like the UK and Australia, the words ɔɪ "cot" and ɔɪ "caught" do not rhyme, and neither do ɔɪ "balm" and ɔɪ "bomb", or ɔɪ "ah" and ɔɪ "awe". This may be a surprise to many North American speakers, for whom these words contain only one or two different vowels.

When in doubt, conventional orthography provides a guide to the usage of ɔɪ, ɔɪ, and ɔɪ:

ɔɪ represents the vowel sound of *start, heart, sergeant*, etc. It is actually one of the rarest Quikscript letters, and occurs in only a small number of words without being followed by ɔɪ. It is signalled by:

- <ah> as in *blah, baht*
- <alm> as in *calm, alms*
- <aa> as in *Afrikaans, salaam*
- <a> alone, as in *father, Bach, spa*

ɔɪ is the most common of the three, representing the vowel sound of *north, for, warm* (don't confuse it with ɔɪ, as used in *boat, bowl, though, pole*, etc.). When not followed by ɔɪ, ɔɪ corresponds with:

- <al> as in *all, walk*
- <au> as in *audio, taught*
- <aw> as in *slaw, awesome*
- <ough> as in *thought, wrought*
- <oa> as in *broad* (unique case)

ɔɪ represents the traditional "short O" sound, almost always spelt with <o> but sometimes <a> after a glide, that is, a ɹ, ɹ or ɹ sound:

- <o> as in *sock, solve, honest*
- <wa> as in *swan, waffle* (with one unique exception: ɹɹɹ for *water*)
- <qua> as in *quality, squat*
- <ya> as in *yacht* (unique case)

There is **no absolute requirement** to memorise the above rules if they are foreign to you; after all, this arguably goes against the spirit of Quikscript. If the three letters sound alike, writing ɔɪ in all cases is acceptable, as this is usually how the merged pronunciation is interpreted by outsiders.