

Initial consonant clusters

In English words there may be either two to three consonants in sequence: 1- Sequences of two consonants initially CCV These are two main kinds: a. /s/ followed by one /p/ , /t/ , /k/ , /f/ , /m/ , /n/ , /l/ , /w/ , /j/ e.g. spy /spai/ , stay /stei/ , sky /skai/ , sphere /sfiə/ , small /smol/ , snow /snəu/ , sleep /sli:p/ , swear /sweə/ , suit /sjut/. b. One of the /p/ , /t/ , /k/ , /b/ , /d/ , /g/ , /f/ , /θ/ , /ʃ/ , /v/ , /m/ , /n/ , /h/ followed by one /l/ , /r/ , /w/ , /j/. Note: not all these sequences are found (e.g. /pw/ , /dl/ do not occur). The full list is /p/ followed by /l/ , /r/ , /j/ , e.g. play , pray , pure /t/ followed by /r/ , /w/ , /j/ e.g. try , twice , tune. /k/ followed by /l/ , /r/ , /w/ , /j/ e.g. climb, cry , quite, cure /b/ followed by /l/ , /r/ , /j/ e.g. blow , bread, beauty. /d/ followed by /r/ , /w/ , /j/ e.g. dress , dwell (rare) , duty. /g/ followed by /l/ , /r/ e.g. glass , green /f/ followed by /l/ , /r/ , /j/ e.g. fly , from , few /θ/ followed by /r/ , /w/ e.g. throw , thwart (rare) /ʃ/ followed by /r/ e.g. shriek , shrink /v/ followed by /j/ e.g. view /m/ followed by /j/ e.g. music /h/ followed by /j/ e.g. huge.