

# Package ‘phonics’

February 13, 2018

**Type** Package

**Title** Phonetic Spelling Algorithms

**Version** 1.0.0

**Date** 2018-02-13

**Encoding** UTF-8

**URL** <https://jameshoward.us/software/phonics/>,  
<https://github.com/howardjp/phonics>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/howardjp/phonics/issues>

**Description** Provides a collection of phonetic algorithms including Soundex, Metaphone, NYSIIS, Caverphone, and others.

**License** BSD\_2\_clause + file LICENSE

**LazyData** TRUE

**Imports** Rcpp (>= 0.12.1)

**Suggests** testthat, knitr, rmarkdown, microbenchmark, readr, ggplot2

**LinkingTo** Rcpp, BH

**RoxygenNote** 6.0.1

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** yes

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**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2018-02-13 20:51:00 UTC

**R topics documented:**

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phonics-package	<i>Phonetic Spelling Algorithms</i>
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**Description**

Encode words with English-language Metaphone

**Details**

The phonics package provides an implementation of the Metaphone phonetic algorithm in R. The algorithm reduces a string to a symbolic representation approximating the sound. It can be used to match names, words, and as a proxy for assorted string distance algorithms.

**Author(s)**

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**See Also**

Useful links:

- <https://jameshoward.us/software/phonics/>
- <https://github.com/howardjp/phonics>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/howardjp/phonics/issues>

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caverphone

*Caverphone*

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## Description

The Caverphone family of phonetic algorithms

## Usage

```
caverphone(word, maxCodeLen = NULL, modified = FALSE)
```

## Arguments

word	string or vector of strings to encode
maxCodeLen	maximum length of the resulting encodings, in characters
modified	if TRUE, use the Caverphone 2 algorithm

## Details

The variable `maxCodeLen` is the limit on how long the returned Caverphone code should be. The default is 6, unless `modified` is set to TRUE, then the default is 10.

The variable `modified` directs `caverphone` to use the `Caverphone2` method, instead of the original.

## Value

the Caverphone encoded character vector

## References

David Hood, "Caverphone: Phonetic matching algorithm," Technical Paper CTP060902, University of Otago, New Zealand, 2002.

David Hood, "Caverphone Revisited," Technical Paper CTP150804 University of Otago, New Zealand, 2004.

## See Also

Other phonics: [cologne](#), [lein](#), [metaphone](#), [mra\\_encode](#), [nysiis](#), [onca](#), [phonex](#), [rogerroot](#), [soundex](#), [statcan](#)

## Examples

```
caverphone("William")
caverphone(c("Peter", "Peady"), modified = TRUE)
caverphone("Stevenson", maxCodeLen = 4)
```

---

cologne

*Cologne Phonetic Name Coding*

---

### Description

The Cologne phonetic name coding procedure.

### Usage

```
cologne(word, maxCodeLen = NULL)
```

### Arguments

word	string or vector of strings to encode
maxCodeLen	maximum length of the resulting encodings, in characters

### Details

The variable `word` is the name to be encoded. The variable `maxCodeLen` is the limit on how long the returned name code should be. The default is 4.

### Value

the Cologne encoded character vector

### References

Hans Joachim Postel. "Die Koelner Phonetik. Ein Verfahren zur Identifizierung von Personennamen auf der Grundlage der Gestaltanalyse." *IBM-Nachrichten* 19. Jahrgang, 1969, p. 925-931.

### See Also

Other phonics: [caverphone](#), [lein](#), [metaphone](#), [mra\\_encode](#), [nysiis](#), [onca](#), [phonex](#), [rogerroot](#), [soundex](#), [statcan](#)

### Examples

```
lein("William")
lein(c("Peter", "Peady"))
lein("Stevenson", maxCodeLen = 8)
```

---

lein	<i>Lein Name Coding</i>
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**Description**

The Lein name coding procedure.

**Usage**

```
lein(word, maxCodeLen = 4)
```

**Arguments**

word	string or vector of strings to encode
maxCodeLen	maximum length of the resulting encodings, in characters

**Details**

The variable `word` is the name to be encoded. The variable `maxCodeLen` is the limit on how long the returned name code should be. The default is 4.

**Value**

the Lein encoded character vector

**References**

Billy T. Lynch and William L. Arends. "Selection of surname coding procedure for the SRS record linkage system." United States Department of Agriculture, Sample Survey Research Branch, Research Division, Washington, 1977.

**See Also**

Other phonics: [caverphone](#), [cologne](#), [metaphone](#), [mra\\_encode](#), [nysiis](#), [onca](#), [phonex](#), [rogerroot](#), [soundex](#), [statcan](#)

**Examples**

```
lein("William")
lein(c("Peter", "Peady"))
lein("Stevenson", maxCodeLen = 8)
```

---

metaphone

*Generate phonetic versions of strings with Metaphone*

---

### Description

The function `metaphone` phonetically encodes the given string using the metaphone algorithm.

### Usage

```
metaphone(word, maxCodeLen = 10L)
```

### Arguments

<code>word</code>	string or vector of strings to encode
<code>maxCodeLen</code>	maximum length of the resulting encodings, in characters

### Details

There is some discrepancy with respect to how the metaphone algorithm actually works. For instance, there is a version in the Java Apache Commons library. There is a version provided within PHP. These do not provide the same results. On the questionable theory that the implementation in PHP is probably more well known, this code should match it in output.

This implementation is based on a Javascript implementation which is itself based on the PHP internal implementation.

The variable `maxCodeLen` is the limit on how long the returned metaphone should be.

### Value

a character vector containing the metaphones of `word`, or an NA if the `word` value is NA

### See Also

Other phonics: [caverphone](#), [cologne](#), [lein](#), [mra\\_encode](#), [nysiis](#), [onca](#), [phonex](#), [rogerroot](#), [soundex](#), [statcan](#)

### Examples

```
metaphone("wheel")
metaphone(c("school", "benji"))
```

---

mra_encode	<i>Match Rating Approach Encoder</i>
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### Description

The Western Airlines matching rating approach name encoder

### Usage

```
mra_encode(word)
```

```
mra_compare(x, y)
```

### Arguments

word	string or vector of strings to encode
x	MRA-encoded character vector
y	MRA-encoded character vector

### Details

The variable `word` is the name to be encoded. The variable `maxCodeLen` is *not* supported in this algorithm encoder because the algorithm itself is dependent upon its six-character length. The variables `x` and `y` are MRA-encoded and are compared to each other using the MRA comparison specification.

### Value

The `mra_encode` function returns match rating approach encoded character vector. The `mra_compare` returns a boolean vector which is TRUE if `x` and `y` pass the MRA comparison test.

### References

G.B. Moore, J.L. Kuhns, J.L. Treffzs, and C.A. Montgomery, *Accessing Individual Records from Personal Data Files Using Nonunique Identifiers*, US National Institute of Standards and Technology, SP-500-2 (1977), p. 17.

### See Also

Other phonics: [caverphone](#), [cologne](#), [lein](#), [metaphone](#), [nysiis](#), [onca](#), [phonex](#), [rogerroot](#), [soundex](#), [statcan](#)

### Examples

```
mra_encode("William")
mra_encode(c("Peter", "Peady"))
mra_encode("Stevenson")
```

**Description**

The NYSIIS phonetic algorithm

**Usage**

```
nysiis(word, maxCodeLen = 6, modified = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

word	string or vector of strings to encode
maxCodeLen	maximum length of the resulting encodings, in characters
modified	if TRUE, use the modified NYSIIS algorithm

**Details**

The `nysiis` function phonetically encodes the given string using the New York State Identification and Intelligence System (NYSIIS) algorithm. The algorithm is based on the implementation provided by Wikipedia and is implemented in pure R using regular expressions.

The variable `maxCodeLen` is the limit on how long the returned NYSIIS code should be. The default is 6.

The variable `modified` directs `nysiis` to use the modified method instead of the original.

**Value**

the NYSIIS encoded character vector

**References**

Robert L. Taft, *Name search techniques*, Bureau of Systems Development, Albany, New York, 1970.

**See Also**

Other phonics: [caverphone](#), [cologne](#), [lein](#), [metaphone](#), [mra\\_encode](#), [onca](#), [phonex](#), [rogerroot](#), [soundex](#), [statcan](#)

**Examples**

```
nysiis("Robert")
nysiis("rupert")
nysiis(c("Alabama", "Alaska"), modified = TRUE)
nysiis("mississippi", 4)
```



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onca

*Oxford Name Compression Algorithm*

---

## Description

The Oxford Name Compression Algorithm name coding procedure

## Usage

```
onca(word, maxCodeLen = 4)
```

## Arguments

word	string or vector of strings to encode
maxCodeLen	maximum length of the resulting encodings, in characters

## Details

The variable `word` is the name to be encoded. The variable `maxCodeLen` is the limit on how long the returned name code should be. The default is 4.

## Value

the ONCA encoded character vector

## References

Gill, Leicester. "OX-LINK: the Oxford medical record linkage system." (1997).

## See Also

Other phonics: [caverphone](#), [cologne](#), [lein](#), [metaphone](#), [mra\\_encode](#), [nysiis](#), [phonex](#), [rogerroot](#), [soundex](#), [statcan](#)

## Examples

```
onca("William")
onca(c("Peter", "Peady"))
onca("Stevenson", maxCodeLen = 8)
```

---

phonex

*Phonex Name Coding*

---

### Description

The Phonex name coding procedure.

### Usage

```
phonex(word, maxCodeLen = 4)
```

### Arguments

word	string or vector of strings to encode
maxCodeLen	maximum length of the resulting encodings, in characters

### Details

The variable `word` is the name to be encoded. The variable `maxCodeLen` is the limit on how long the returned name code should be. The default is 4.

### Value

the Phonex encoded character vector

### References

A.J. Lait and Brian Randell. "An assessment of name matching algorithms." Technical Report Series-University of Newcastle Upon Tyne Computing Science (1996).

### See Also

Other phonics: [caverphone](#), [cologne](#), [lein](#), [metaphone](#), [mra\\_encode](#), [nysiis](#), [onca](#), [rogerroot](#), [soundex](#), [statcan](#)

### Examples

```
phonex("William")
phonex(c("Peter", "Peady"))
phonex("Stevenson", maxCodeLen = 8)
```

---

`rogerroot`*Roger Root Name Coding Procedure*

---

## Description

Provides the Roger Root name coding system

## Usage

```
rogerroot(word, maxCodeLen = 5)
```

## Arguments

<code>word</code>	string or vector of strings to encode
<code>maxCodeLen</code>	maximum length of the resulting encodings, in characters

## Details

The `rogerroot` function phonetically encodes the given string using the Roger Root algorithm. The variable `word` is a string or vector of strings to encode.

The variable `maxCodeLen` is the limit on how long the returned code should be. The default is 5.

## Value

the Roger Root encoded character vector

## References

Robert L. Taft, *Name search techniques*, Bureau of Systems Development, Albany, New York, 1970.

## See Also

Other phonics: [caverphone](#), [cologne](#), [lein](#), [metaphone](#), [mra\\_encode](#), [nysiis](#), [onca](#), [phonex](#), [soundex](#), [statcan](#)

## Examples

```
rogerroot("William")
rogerroot(c("Peter", "Peady"))
rogerroot("Stevenson")
```

---

soundex	<i>Soundex</i>
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### Description

The Soundex phonetic algorithms

### Usage

```
soundex(word, maxCodeLen = 4L)
```

```
refinedSoundex(word, maxCodeLen = 10L)
```

### Arguments

word	string or vector of strings to encode
maxCodeLen	maximum length of the resulting encodings, in characters

### Details

The function `soundex` phonetically encodes the given string using the soundex algorithm. The function `refinedSoundex` uses Apache's refined soundex algorithm. Both implementations are loosely based on the Apache Commons Java editons.

The variable `maxCodeLen` is the limit on how long the returned soundex should be.

### Value

soundex encoded character vector

### References

Charles P. Bourne and Donald F. Ford, "A study of methods for systematically abbreviating English words and names," *Journal of the ACM*, vol. 8, no. 4 (1961), p. 538-552.

Howard B. Newcombe, James M. Kennedy, "Record linkage: making maximum use of the discriminating power of identifying information," *Communications of the ACM*, vol. 5, no. 11 (1962), p. 563-566.

### See Also

Other phonics: [caverphone](#), [cologne](#), [lein](#), [metaphone](#), [mra\\_encode](#), [nysiis](#), [onca](#), [phonex](#), [rogerroot](#), [statcan](#)

### Examples

```
soundex("wheel")
soundex(c("school", "benji"))
```

---

statcan	<i>Statistics Canada Name Coding</i>
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---

**Description**

The modified Statistics Canada name coding procedure

**Usage**

```
statcan(word, maxCodeLen = 4)
```

**Arguments**

word	string or vector of strings to encode
maxCodeLen	maximum length of the resulting encodings, in characters

**Details**

The variable `word` is the name to be encoded. The variable `maxCodeLen` is the limit on how long the returned name code should be. The default is 4.

**Value**

the Statistics Canada encoded character vector

**References**

Billy T. Lynch and William L. Arends. "Selection of surname coding procedure for the SRS record linkage system." United States Department of Agriculture, Sample Survey Research Branch, Research Division, Washington, 1977.

**See Also**

Other phonics: [caverphone](#), [cologne](#), [lein](#), [metaphone](#), [mra\\_encode](#), [nysiis](#), [onca](#), [phonex](#), [rogerroot](#), [soundex](#)

**Examples**

```
statcan("William")
statcan(c("Peter", "Peady"))
statcan("Stevenson", maxCodeLen = 8)
```

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