

Spelling list: Rulebreakers: when *-ain* and *-ate* don't spell the long /a/ sound

Many *-ain* and *-ate* words **do not** have a long /a/ sound. Instead the vowel sound is a weak *schwa* . Here are a few examples.

captain	The captain of the plane sits on the right.
certain	Are you certain you paid that bill?
curtain	The sun glinted through the gap in the curtain .
bargain	My new camera was a real bargain .
fountain	Someone has thrown money in the fountain .
mountain	The only snow is at the top of the mountain .
villain	The story is told from the perspective of the villain .
private	They hid the private documents.
chocolate	I love chocolate mousse.
immediate	Please give this task your immediate attention.