Soundex Code Calculation Worksheet

Most last names can be spelled in a variety of ways. For example, "Smith" can also be spelled "Smyth," "Smithe," or "Smythe." The USA Works Progress Administration developed Soundex in the late 1930's as a method of creating sound codes for names. By grouping together last names that sound similar, Soundex allows people to search for ancestors, even when they used different spellings of the surnames.

To use the Soundex index, create a Soundex code for your surname. Each Soundex code consists of one letter and three numbers (eg. S645) no matter how long the name:

- The letter is always the first letter of the surname. For example, "S" for "Smith."
- The numbers in the code are determined by the rest of the consonants in the name following the rules below. Vowels (A, E, I, O, U) and Y, W, and H are ignored.

Surname												
Soundex												

NOTE: If the surname has a prefix, such as De, De la, Di, La, Le, Van, or Von, figure out the codes for the name both with and without the prefix -- it may be listed under either code. (Please note that Soundex does not consider Mc and Mac prefixes.)

Calculate the Soundex Code for your Surname

1. Write in your surname.
2. Cross out the vowels and Y, W and H (A, E, I, O, U, Y, W, H) in your surname.
3. Enter the first letter of your surname as the first letter of the Soundex code.
4. Convert remaining consonants from the left to the number listed below:

    - 1 = B, F, P and V
    - 2 = C, G, J, K, Q, S, X and Z
    - 3 = D and T
    - 4 = L
    - 5 = M and N
    - 6 = R

Special Rules

1. Treat double letters as a single letter.
2. If a letter has the same code as the preceding letter, ignore it.
3. If there aren't enough valid letters in the name to create 3 digits after the first letter, add zeros.