

# letters

There are 26 letters in English.

Each letter has a name, like b (bee), and a sound, like 'b' (buh).

Some letters have more than one sound.

For instance g makes a 'g' sound like in 'gum' or 'j' sound like in 'gym'  
Sometimes two letters make a new sound like the ou in cloud says 'ow'.

So there are 26 letters, but they make more than 45 sounds.

Once you learn these sounds, you can read.

Letters are either vowels or consonants

there are 5 vowels

a e i o u

(and sometimes y)

Each vowel has a short sound and a long sound.

We learn the short sounds first (like the 'a' sound in ant).

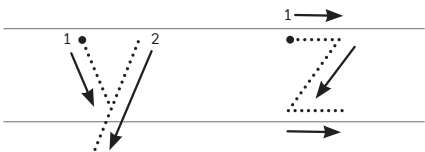
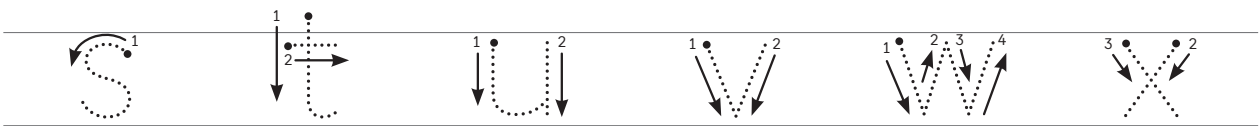
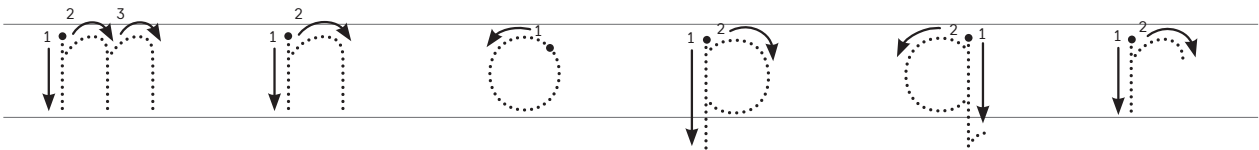
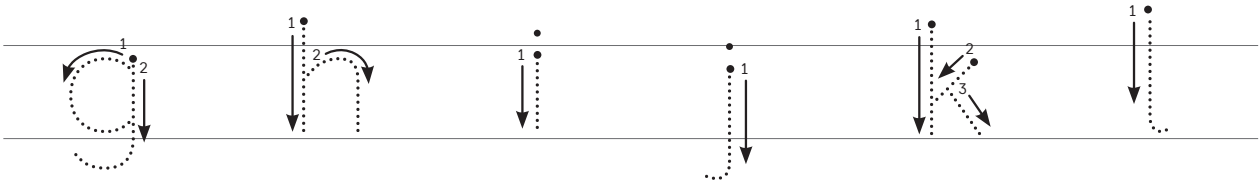
The long sound says the letter's name (like the 'a' sound in ate).

Sometimes y acts like a vowel (like in puppy - the y says 'e').

All the other 21 letters are consonants

b	c	d	f	g	h	j
k	l	m	n	p	q	r
s	t	v	w	x	y	z

# how to write your letters



## my sounds chart

a



ant

e



egg

i



in

o



octopus

u



up

th



thumb

ch



chop

sh



ship

wh



whale

qu



queen

ay



spray

ai



snail

ee



bee

ea



leaf

ea



bread

oa



goat

ow



row

ow



owl

ou



cloud

ck



duck

oo



book

oo



balloon

oi



point

oy



toy

aw



draw

ar



star

or



horse

er



tiger

ir



bird

ur



surf

## my sounds chart

ai  
ay

rain go away

ir  
ur  
er

a bird a turtle a tiger

ie  
igh  
y

pie high in the sky

ue  
oo  
ew

blue balloon flew

ou  
ow

loud cow

ee  
ea

sheep eat

oi  
oy

point at the toy

ow  
oa

slow boat



# sight words

Sight words are extra hard because they usually don't have any picture associations.

Also, they are frequently used but sometimes follow unusual spelling patterns.

All of these words do follow sound rules, but they are often advanced lessons.

So to make it easier for your early reader,  
play some fun games so they recognize these frequently seen tricky words.  
You can add new words as you come across them in your reading (like 'eight')

## list 1

the  
and  
we  
me  
am  
of  
I  
all  
he  
she  
to  
for

## list 2

who  
why  
you  
this  
that  
were  
have  
are  
by  
what  
where  
was

## list 3

friend  
said  
some  
people  
more  
about  
very  
school  
there  
from  
with  
each

It's helpful that your learner learns to read these words separately from all the letter sound learning they are doing, but don't worry about their spelling of these words for now, if they are an early reader/writer.

# sight words

Print and cut out words or write out on post-it notes or fun paper (all lower case).

Read the word together. Say it, write it, say it in a sentence.

Don't learn them all at once, just do one a day, or one every few days.



the	who	friend	use
and	why	said	each
we	you	some	day
me	this	people	see
am	that	more	come
of	were	about	look
I	have	very	they
all	are	school	like
he	by	there	play
she	what	from	read
to	where	with	again
for	was	but	could

# words lists - long e



ee

middle or end

bee

sheep

feel

sweet

tree

queen

deep



ea

start, middle or end

leaf

eat

each

seal

pea

beach

peach



y

y says 'e' at the end of  
a 2 syllable word

puppy

bunny

sunny

funny

happy

baby

candy

## words lists - long i



igh



i\_e

magic e



y

y says 'i' at the end of a  
1 syllable word

light

kite

spy

night

bike

fly

fright

like

by

high

side

sky

right

hide

my



ie

pie

tie

lie

die

'ie' also says 'i', but only in these 4 words, so it's not found very often



# words lists - long o



**oa**

mostly in the middle, but  
sometimes at the start

boat

toad

goat

soap

oat



**o\_e**

magic e

home

smoke

joke

rode

bone



**ow**

mostly at the end

crow

bow

row

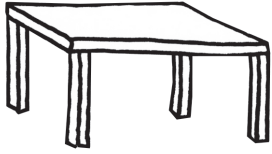
snow

blow

-----  
**oe**    toe    foe    doe

only at the end, and only in these 3 words, so very rare

## words lists - long a



a

at the start  
or middle

table

acorn

apron

baby

paper

alien



a\_e

magic e

cake

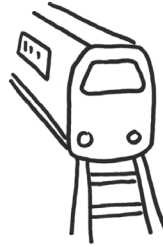
ate

same

gate

lake

take



ai

at the start  
or middle

train

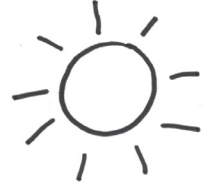
aim

rain

mail

wait

paint



ay

at the end

day

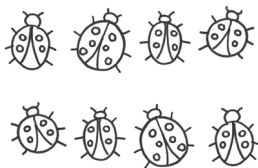
say

away

ray

play

today



8

eigh eight weigh eighteen

'eigh' also says 'ay', but not very often.  
Learn eight as a sight word.

## words lists - long u



u

at the start  
or middle

unicorn

unit

uniform

human

music

student

duty



u\_e

magic e

cute

use

tube

dude

flute



oo

in the middle  
or the end

moon

scoot

zoo

tooth

balloon

toot

pool

food

boot

too



ew

at the end

blew

few

grew

chew

drew



ue

at the end

glue

clue

blue

## words lists - 'ch' sound



ch



tch

start sound

chop

chip

chin

chat

cheek

end sound

such

rich

inch

lunch

much

catch

batch

itch

hatch

stitch

## words lists

③



th

ck

wh

sh

start sound

three

whale

sheep

the

when

ship

thin

white

she

that

wheel

shop

then

what

shed

end sound

math

duck

crash

with

rock

mash

bath

luck

fish

moth

stick

dish

teeth

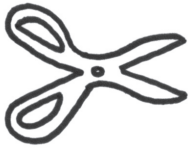
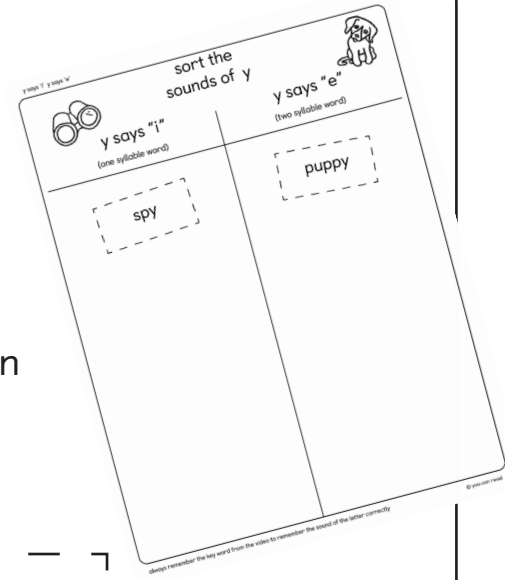
sock

wish

# sounds of y

when it's at the end of a word  
or syllable

cut out the words below  
place them into the correct column  
does the y say "i" or "e"



fly	happy
puppy	cry
spy	smelly
messy	why
my	slimy
sticky	fry

don't forget y says 'y' at the start of a word, like in "yes"



# sort the sounds of y



y says "i"

(one syllable word)

y says "e"

(two syllable word)

spy

puppy

## sounds of c

hard c    c says 'k'  
when c is followed by a, o or u  
or another consonant

soft c    c says 's'  
when c is followed by e, i or y

underline the letter c, then underline the next letter  
does the c say 's' or 'k'? trace and say the word

cat    cat

ice    ice

cap    cap

face    face

cot    cot

city    city

cup    cup

pencil    pencil

clap    clap

cycle    cycle

clip    clip

fancy    fancy



## sounds of g

hard g    g says 'g'

when g is followed by a, o or u  
or another consonant

soft g    g says 'j'

when g is followed by e, i or y

underline the letter g, then underline the next letter  
does the g say 'g' or 'j'?  
trace and say the word

gas    gas

gem    gem

go    go

huge    huge

gum    gum

giant    giant

goat    goat

gym    gym

# open or closed syllable

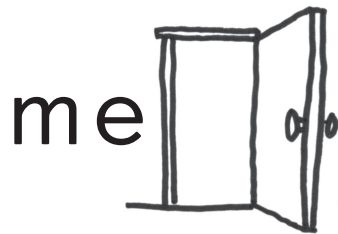
put your hands together, then open and close your hands  
as you read the open and closed vowel sounds

## open

vowel at the end of a syllable

long vowel sound

the vowel says its name



hi

be

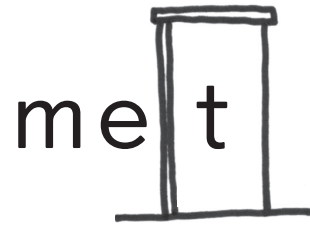
we

no

## closed

consonant at the end of a syllable

short vowel sound



hip

bet

web

not

# magic e

use your finger as a magic wand  
magically change the sound of the vowel  
by adding a silent e at the end

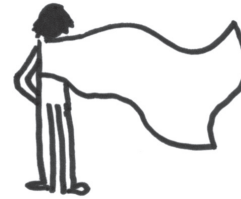
without the silent e  
the a has a short vowel  
sound (like ant)

cap



cap\_e

add the silent e and  
the a sound becomes long  
- it says its name 'a'



cape

cub\_\_

tap\_\_



fin\_\_

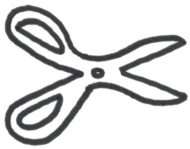
bit\_\_

## magic e

when an 'e' is at the end of a word it is silent  
 the silent e makes the vowel that came before it  
 say its name

without the silent e  
 the u has a short vowel  
 sound (like in 'up')

add a silent e at the end and  
 change the sound of the vowel  
 to the long vowel sound  
 - it says its name, 'u'



cut

cute



kit\_\_

can\_\_

mad\_\_

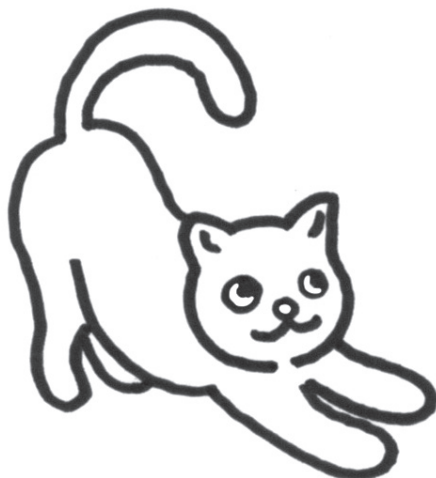


hop\_\_



## c k ck all say "k"

read, say and circle the "k" sounds and colour in the pictures



a (c)at

and a duck

had a picnic

in the park

with a kite



c

before a o u  
or a consonant

cat    clap  
cup    clip  
car    music  
cap    picnic

ck

at the end (word, syllable)  
after a short vowel

duck    truck  
back    black  
tick    pick  
tock    pocket

k

before i e or y  
after vowel teams  
after everything else

kite    risky  
kettle    bank  
milk    beak  
kept    creek

# the "j" sound

## j

the consonant  
letter j

jam  
jar  
jump  
joke  
enjoy

## soft g

before e, i, or y

gym  
giant  
page  
genius  
gem

## -dge

after a short vowel

edge  
hedge  
judge  
hodge  
podge

## -ge

after a long vowel

age  
cage  
rage  
large  
huge

## -d

with a connective 'u'

individual  
schedule  
residual  
graduate  
gradual