

Apple Card

- Apple - /_/_/ - spelled A
- Short vowel sound (mouth open when sound is produced)
- Occurs in a syllable that ends with a consonant letter (cvc, vc): *am and can had cat dance quack*
- Exceptions: *what, father, mamma, ancient*
- When /a/ occurs in an unstressed syllable (schwa), the sound is muffled and may change: *fi-nal, a-lone, so-da*

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Bat Card

- Bat - /b/- spelled B
- A voiced consonant
- Also occurs in consonant blends with R and L: *brown, break, blink, blue*
- If the blend splits up between vowels (prob-lem) the B makes the first vowel short

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Camel Card

- Camel - /k/ - spelled C, K, __CK
- An unvoiced consonant
- This is the hard C sound and occurs before any letter except E, I, or Y:
can, cop, cut, clip, crab, fact, acme, acquire
Exceptions: *Caesar, façade, muscle, indict*
- The letter K followed by E, I, or Y results in the hard C sound:
kept, keep, kite, kit, shake, shaken, shaking
- __CK is used to spell the sound of \bar{K} at the end of the root word, right after a short vowel. Native English words do not end in C.
NOTE: To scaffold this card for students, add a green Post-it to the blank line in front of the CK to indicate this spelling always follows a short vowel: *pack, peck, pick, pock, block, duck, truck*
Exceptions: *Mac, Doc, trek, sac – slang or foreign words*
- When the occasion arises, a Post-it with the CH spelling for the sound of K may be added to the cat card. Words of Greek origin, borrowed by the Romans, contained a sound they could not pronounce. They rewrote the sound using the CH:
school, Christmas, chlorine, character, stomach

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Dolphin Card

- Dolphin - /d/ - spelled D, __ED
- A voiced consonant
- Can occur in consonant blends with R and W – DR and DW: *drink, draw, dwarf, children, laundry*
- The _ED is pronounced as a voiced /d/ sound if it follows a vowel or a voiced or nasal consonant: *closed, dined, timed, pulled*
- The _ED is pronounced as / t/ following an unvoiced consonant other than the letter T: *asked, mixed, baked*
- The _ED is pronounced as a separate syllable –ed after D and T: *added, handed, voted, pasted, completed*

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Egg Card

- Egg - /_/_ - spelled E, ea
- Short vowel sound when it is within the syllable – cvc
- Short vowel sound when it begins a word and is followed by a consonant in the same syllable – *egg, ef-fort, ex-tra*
Exception: *pretty*
- E is also short when combined with A to form the vowel team EA -- *head, deaf, bear, heavy, breath, bread*
- The sounds of E are muffled beyond recognition in the syllables which are the most hurried and the least stressed. This happens mainly to the sounds spelled by the simple letter E: *telephone, competition, funnel, basket, confidence*

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Fire Card

- Fire - /f/ - spelled F, ph
- An unvoiced consonant
- May be part of a consonant blend with L and R – FL an FR: *free, from, flat, friend, flower, Friday*
- These blends seldom split up between vowels; the vowel
- before the blend is long - *refrain, reflect*
- When the occasion arises, a Post-it with the _FF spelling may be added to the fish card. The _FF is a letter team for the sound of F following a short vowel at the end of a syllable or word. Adding a green Post-it to the blank line in front of the FF will scaffold this spelling pattern for your students: *off, staff, bluff, gruff, sheriff, fluff*
- When the occasion arises, a Post-it with the PH spelling may be added to the fish card. This is a Greek spelling for the F sound: *phone, photo, elephant, alphabet, graph*
- When P and H belong to different syllables, they do not make the F sound (*loophole, shepherd, uphill*).
- In a very few instances, the F sound is made by the consonant team of GH (*rough, tough, cough, laugh*), but since there are so few of these words, it is not recommended that a post-it be added to the Fish card.

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Guitar Card

- Guitar - /g/ - spelled G
- A voiced consonant
- G makes the hard G sound when it comes before any letter
- except E, I, or Y – *game, go, glass, dogfish, fragment, signal*
- G makes the hard sound when it has nothing that comes after it: *beg, bag, dog, leg, brag*
- o Exceptions: get, give, girl, begin, gaunt
- G may also be joined with R and L in consonant blends. If the blend is split over syllables, the vowel before it is short. If the blend does not split, the vowel before it is long: *prog-ress, pro-gram*
- In a very few instances, G combines with H to form the hard G sound (*ghost, ghoul, spaghetti*) but since there are so few of these words, it is not recommended that a post-it be added to the Goose card.
- GU can also be a consonant team for the hard G sound. This occurs when the next letter is an E or an I: *guess, league, guide*. The GU keeps the E or I from making the G a soft G.
- GU may also be a consonant blend where the G is hard and the U represents the sound of W: *penguin, language, distinguish*

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Hippo Card

- Hippo - /h/ - spelled H__
- An unvoiced consonant
- In English, the H has one basic sound, the first sound in *help*. It makes this sound when it is the first letter in a word or syllable.
- There are some French and Latin words in which the H is silent: *honor, heir, hour, honest, exhaust, vehicle*
- H almost never occurs alone after a vowel in English; exceptions being *oh, ah, hah, eh, uh* (approximations of inarticulate grunts)
- H is the second letter in the consonant teams CH, GH, PH, RH, SH, TH, WH; teams for sounds which did not exist in the Latin language (refer to CH, SH, TH, WH cards)

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Insect Card

- Insect- /_/_ - spelled I
- I is short in a syllable that ends with a consonant – cvc or vc: *it, is, bit, mist, print, quilt, bit-ten, pre-dic-tion*
- When there are two consonants between vowels, the first vowel is almost always short: *fifty, as-sistant, timber, missed*
- Only words of foreign origin, slang terms, and the pronoun I end in the letter I: *hi-fi, taxi, macaroni, alibi, fungi, timpani*
- Unlike the sounds of other English vowels, the sounds of I in unstressed syllables (schwa) are fairly distinct. When the next letter is a consonant, the I remains detectably long or short, depending on how it would sound if stressed: *i-de-a-lism, li-bra-ri-an, ta-king*. When I, before a vowel, is unstressed because it is in a suffix, it has a distinct long E sound: *hap-pi-er, va-ri-ous*
- NOTE: The kindergarten Alphafriend card is an Iguana card, not an Igloo card

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Jump Card

- Jump- /j/ - spelled J, GE, GI __, __DGE
- J is a voiced consonant: *job, joke, jolly, jacket, enjoy, subject, adjourn*
- J is never used as the last letter in a word, instead –GE or –DGE is used
- GE is used at the end of a word that ends with the J sound: *page, huge, large, forge, plunge, bulge*. The silent E makes the G soft and the vowel long, unless the GE is preceded by another consonant.
- In words of French origin, the GE at the end of a word is pronounced ZH: *garage, mirage, lingerie*
- GI_ is used at the beginning of a syllable when a J sound is needed: *giant, ginger, magic, longitude*.
Exceptions: In some words, G is followed by an E, I, or Y and makes the hard G sound: *get, girl, give, gift*
- -DGE is a consonant team for the sound of J at the ends of root words following a short vowel: *judge, edge, bridge, hedgehog, midget*. The silent E is needed to make the G a soft G, and the D is needed so that the silent E does not make the first vowel long.
- NOTE: It is suggested that a green Post-it be added to the blank line in front of the DGE on the Jumping Jill Card.

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- Root words ending in the K sound must be spelled with K (or CK) because most of them take suffixes that begin with E, I, or Y: *ask/asking, luck/lucky, speak/speaking* Exceptions: *disc, arc, franc, zinc, talc* – words of foreign origin
- In some words of French origin, QUE makes a /k/ sound: *bouquet, mosquito, torque, critique*. There are so few of these words in elementary texts, adding QUE to the Kangaroo card is not recommended.

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Lemon Card

- Lemon - /l/ - spelled L, __LE
- L is a voiced consonant
- The sound of L is a very sophisticated sound and is especially difficult for beginning reading students, particularly when it occurs before a vowel
- The letter L is often the first letter in a syllable: *let, last, tab-let, quick-ly*
- The letter L is the last member in some consonant blends: *black, clean, chlorine, flag, glad, plan, slip, splash*
- When the L sound occurs at the end of a root word we use LL to spell it: *ill, hill, still, cell, fell, mull.*
- Unlike __ff and __zz the LL spelling does not always follow a short vowel. In words of Native English origin, the A may be changed to the AW sound (*hall, ball, tall*) and the O sound may be changed to a long O sound (*roll, poll*)
- -LE is an English suffix that is pronounced the same way as /el/; __LE captures the consonant immediately preceding it to create a separate syllable: *ta-ble, ap-ple, bub-ble*
- When L occurs after a long vowel sound in a single syllable word, the word often sounds like it has two syllables: *pail, feel, tile, coal, rule, boil, howl, cool*
- The letter L can also be silent before K, M, F, or D; however, because there are so few of these words, it is not recommended that LK, LM, LF, or LD be added to their respective Sound-Spelling cards

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- The letter L can also be silent before K, M, F, or D; however, because there are so few of these words, it is not recommended that LK, LM, LF, or LD be added to their respective Sound-Spelling cards

Lemon Card

- Lemon - /l/ - spelled L, __LE
- L is a voiced consonant
- The sound of L is a very sophisticated sound and is especially difficult for beginning reading students, particularly when it occurs before a vowel
- The letter L is often the first letter in a syllable: *let, last, tab-let, quick-ly*
- The letter L is the last member in some consonant blends: *black, clean, chlorine, flag, glad, plan, slip, splash*
- When the L sound occurs at the end of a root word we use LL to spell it: *ill, hill, still, cell, fell, mull.*
- Unlike __ff and __zz the LL spelling does not always follow a short vowel. In words of Native English origin, the A may be changed to the AW sound (*hall, ball, tall*) and the O sound may be changed to a long O sound (*roll, poll*)
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Map Card

- Map - /m/ - spelled M
- M is a nasal consonant: when the mouth is held closed the voice carries the sound through the nose
- M is a consonant letter used anywhere in a word: *me, map, am, came, important, prism, admit*
- MB and MN are consonant teams for the sound of M: *climb, comb, thumb, hymn, column*. However, there are so few words with these spelling patterns it is not recommended that Post-its with MB or MN be added to the Mouse card.

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Nest Card

- Nest - /n/ - spelled N, KN__, GN
- N is a nasal consonant used anywhere in a word: *no, snow, any, noun, tradition, glen, planned*
- KN is a consonant letter team for the sound of N used only at the beginning of a root word: *know, knit, knight, knee, knothole, ac-know-ledge, un-known*
- GN is a consonant team for the sound of N: *gnaw, gnat, align, gnu, assign, design*
- GN occasionally represents the sound /ny/: *poignant*
- GN followed by a Latin suffix breaks up and becomes a hard G: *signal, malignant*

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Octopus Card

- Octopus - /_/ - spelled O
- O is a short vowel when it occurs within a syllable (cvc): *hot, fond, concert, hot-ter, a-dop-ted*
Exceptions: The O sound within a syllable will some-times make the short U sound or the long O sound. Students should be taught to try a short U sound or a long O sound when the short O sound does not work: *son, ton, front, mother, company, oven, color, come, some, none, done, love, most, both, don't*
- O is short at the beginning of a word when it is followed by a consonant: *on, off, obstacle, optional*
- In words where the O is followed by L or LL in a stressed syllable, the L goes off with the next syllable and the O is short (*jo-ly, ho-llow, o-live, so-lid, bi-o-logy*), except when the L is single and the suffix makes it a long O (*cor-o-llary, co-llapse, po-lar*)
- In hurried, unstressed syllables, the O sound is muffled (schwa). This happens mainly to the sounds spelled by the simple letter O: *po-ta-to, oc-cur, com-bine*
- NOTE: The kindergarten Alphafriend card is an Octopus card, not an Ostrich card

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Piano Card

- Piano - /p/ - spelled P
- P is an unvoiced consonant that has one basic sound /p/:
pan, plan, up, tape, happy, crisp, price, spice
- P may occur in consonant blends: SP, PL, SPR, SPL, PR: *spin, play, spring, splash, prod.* In all these blends, the P retains its /p/ sound
- The letter P may occur in the consonant blends PS and PN: *psychology, psychic, pneumatic, pneumonia.* In these blends, the P is silent.

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Queen Card

- Queen - /kw/ - spelled QU__
- QU is the way we spell the Old English consonant blend CW: *quick, quiet, quilt, squirrel, quarter*
- The QU blend is always followed by a vowel. Since vowels are red on the Sound-Spelling cards, you could scaffold the blank line on the Queen card by placing a post-it with a red blank line over the black blank line
- The QU blend sometimes splits up across a syllable: *liq-uid, equal, tranq-uil*
- In some words of French origin, QU adds a silent E and becomes a /k/ sound: *bouquet, mosquito, torque, critique*. There are so few of these words in elementary texts, adding QUE to the Kangaroo card is not recommended.

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Rose Card

- Rose - /r/ - spelled R, WR__
- The letter R is a voiced consonant for the first sound in rabbit: *rain, tree, run, carry, rich*
- It is not the /er/ sound. The lips should form a pursed (kissing) circle and a stream of air is emitted from the lips. When making the /er/ sound (Bird card), the lips are open in a square and no stream of air is emitted.
- The letter R is a sophisticated sound and is especially difficult for beginning reading students. Making and hearing the R sound after consonants and in consonant blends (br, fr, gr, shr, tr, spr, cr, scr) develops later than other combinations.
- All short vowel sounds are distorted when followed by the R sound: *car, for, her, sir, fur*
- The R sound changes short A to the short O sound: *car, far*
- The R sound changes short O to the long O sound: *for, more*
- The R sound changes short E, I, U and the short vowel team EA to the ER sound: *her, fir, fur, learn, early*
- When the R sound follows a long vowel and some vowel pairs in a single syllable word, the word may sound like it has two syllables: *fair, fear, tire, core, sour, poor, pure*
- WR is a native English spelling for the sound of R at the beginning of a word only. At one time the W was pronounced. Most of these words have meanings connected to the idea of twisting: *write, wrist, wrench, wrap, wrestle, wrinkle*
- In words borrowed by the Romans from the Greeks, the initial sound of R is spelled RH: *rhyme, rhythm, rhombus, rheumatism*. There are too few of these words in the English language to add a Post-it to the Rooster card.

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Sun Card

- Sun - /s/ - spelled S, CE, CI__
- The letter S is an unvoiced consonant for the first sound in seal and sail: *sat, same, sight, soap, soot* Note: See the Zebra card for the voiced S sound
- The letter S is unvoiced when it is the first member of a consonant blend: *scar, school, skim, slip, smoke, snake, spin, split, spring, squeak, stick, street, swing, desk, crisp, must, sphere, schizophrenic, sword*
- The letter S is unvoiced when spelled S or SS and is between vowels: *case, basin, besides, usage, house, missile, tassel*
- The letter S is the most actively used native English suffix, forming plural nouns (*cat/cats, lip/lips*) and the third person singular of the present tense of verbs (*run/runs, hit/hits*)
- The letter S makes the unvoiced /s/ sound after unvoiced consonants: *cuffs, looks, tops, hits, rakes, types, notes*
- When the unvoiced S sound occurs at the end of a root word, following a short vowel, it is spelled SS. Because there are a significant number of words ending in SS, when the occasion arises, it is recommended that you add a post-it to the Seal card that has a blank with a green post-it in front of the SS spelling: *mass, boss, kiss, kindness, princess*
- A single S occurs at the ends of Latin suffixes: *-ous, -as, -is, -os, -us: famous, canvas, basis, cosmos, cactus, focus*
- Some root words end in an unvoiced SE: *horse, else, nurse, goose, grease, tortoise*. The silent E shows the reader that the S is not a suffix and helps distinguish between *lapse/laps, diverse/divers*. Some words ending in SE have a voiced /z/ sound. See the Zebra card.
- In the consonant blend SC preceding E, I, or Y, the C has a soft sound, so the blend sounds like a plain S sound: *scene, science, scent*
- The letter C makes the soft /s/ sound when it is followed by the letters E, I, or Y: *cent, cedar, city, cider, cycle, race, racy*
- While the CE spelling for the /s/ sound can come at the end of a word (*dance, mice, face, once, police*), words of English origin do not end with CI. The CI spelling for the /s/ sound is always followed by another letter: *pencil, deficit, appreciate, scissors*
- A few rare words end with or contain the unvoiced S sound, but it is written as a Z: *chintz, quartz, eczema, howitzer*

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Turtle Card

- Turtle - /t/ - spelled T, __ED
- The letter T is an unvoiced consonant
- The letter T has one basic sound, the first sound in top: *time, train, last, cotton, title, little, stain, fist*
- ED is an inflected ending that changes a verb to the past tense; it is pronounced as a /t/ sound if it follows an unvoiced consonant: *asked, backed, taped, shaped, mixed, guessed, wished*
- The letter T is silent in –STLE, –STEN, AND –FTEN: *castle, wrestle, listen, fasten, often, soften*
- The letter T is part of the consonant blends TR, TW, and STR: *tree, treat, twice, twinkle, symmetry, strawberry, strike*
- In words of French origin, a final T is silent: *bouquet, depot, debut*; but when a final silent E is added the T is pronounced: *route, suite, petite, elite, gazette, etiquette*

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Umbrella Card

- Umbrella - /_/_ - spelled U
- The letter U is short when it is within a syllable (cvc, vc): *but, fun, drum, dump, sub-ject, bundle*

Exception: When the consonant following the short U is an R, the short U sound changes to the ER sound: *fur, turn, burst, turkey, purple, hurry*

- In words that begin with U, the U is short if it has a consonant after it in the same syllable: *up, un-der, un-like, un-done*

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Volcano Card

- Volcano - /v/ - spelled V
- The letter V is a voiced consonant: *five, vine, vote, never, oven, advocate, behavior, adventure, gave*
- Unlike other consonants, the letter V is never doubled when adding a native English suffix: *driving, arriving, evolving, diver*
- The letter V never appears at the end of a word without a silent E: *give, live, have, prove, cleave, improve.*

In these words the silent E does not make a single vowel before it long, rather these words have either a short I or U sound (*glove, love, give, native*) or a long OO sound (*move, prove*). Vowel teams retain their sounds, however: *groove, waive, heave, receive, sleeve, mauve*

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In these words the silent E does not make a single vowel before it long, rather these words have either a short I or U sound (*glove, love, give, native*) or a long OO sound (*move, prove*). Vowel teams retain their sounds, however: *groove, waive, heave, receive, sleeve, mauve*

Volcano Card

- Volcano - /v/ - spelled V
- The letter V is a voiced consonant: *five, vine, vote, never, oven, advocate, behavior, adventure, gave*
- Unlike other consonants, the letter V is never doubled when adding a native English suffix: *driving, arriving, evolving, diver*
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Window Card

- Window - /w/ - spelled W__
- The letter W is a voiced consonant that occurs before the vowel by itself or as the second member of a consonant blend: *we, went, twelve, twist, swing, dwell*
- When the /w/ sound is pronounced a stream of air is emitted from the lips.
- When W comes before A or O within the syllable the vowel remains short if followed by G, CK, K, X or NG: *wag, wax, twang, polliwog, quack*

Otherwise, when W comes before A or O within the syllable, the short A changes to the short O sound: *want, wash, swap*

Or the short O changes to a short U sound: *won, wonder, woman*

If the letter after the changed A or O is R, or R followed by a different consonant, it changes the short O sound of the A to a long O sound and it changes the short U sound of the O to the same sound as in UR: *war, warm, warden, world, worse*

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Box Card

- Box - /ks/ - spelled __X
- X is a single letter for the consonant blend KS: *ox, six, relax, next, except, oxygen*
- The letter X follows a single vowel, the vowel is short. Scaffolding the Fox card with a green Post-it is recommended.

Exceptions: when X follows a vowel team, the team retains its normal sound: *hoax*

- When a word ends in the KS blend sound, the letter X keeps the word from looking like the suffix -s has been added to it: *tax/tacks, lax/lacks*
- The letter X is never doubled when adding a suffix since it already represents two consonant sounds
- In a few unusual words, the letter X sounds like Z: *Xerox, xylophone, xerxes, xenophobia*. Do not add this sound to the Zebra card.
- NOTE: The kindergarten Alpha friend is the Mr. X-ray card and not the Fox card.

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Yo-Yo Card

- Yo-yo -- /y/ -- spelled Y__
- This card represents Y in its voiced consonant form at the beginning of a word or syllable: *you, yes, yard, yellow, lawyer, canyon*
- Anywhere else in a word, the letter Y is a vowel
- Y is short within a syllable: *gym, symbol*
- If the suffix begins with I, the Y remains unchanged since we never have two I's in a row in English: *crying, flying*
- Y is long and sounds like long I when:

it is the only vowel in the root of the word, and is the very last letter of the word: *by, cry, fly, deny, satisfy*

Y is stressed because of being in a root: *cries, denied, trial*

it is the last letter in a syllable: *ty-rant* (unless the word is of Latin origin –*cynic*)

it is in the spelling pattern Y_E (type, style) or the vowel team YE (*rye, bye*)

it is stressed before another vowel: *cy-a-nide, hy-a-cinth*

- Y is long and sounds like long E when:

it is unstressed because of being in a suffix: *candy, sandy, happily*

it is unstressed before another vowel: *hal-cy-on*

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Zipper Card

- Zipper - /z/ - spelled Z, __S
- The letter Z is a voiced consonant. It is the same sound as the voiced S, but S is never voiced at the beginning of a word: *zero, zone, zipper, fuzzy, frozen, realize*
- The double ZZ always follows a short vowel. There are not that many words with ZZ but this could be added to the Zebra card if deemed necessary. Add a green Post-it on the blank line in front of the ZZ if you do put it on your Sound-Spelling card: *buzz, fizz, puzzle, drizzle, fuzzy*

Exceptions: *quiz, whiz, fez*

- A voiced S makes the Z sound:

S between vowels is often voiced: *raisin, easy, nose, music*

S is the most active of English suffixes and is voiced after vowel sounds: *days, bees, ties, shows, news, boys*

makes the Z sound after voiced consonants: *rubs, heads, tags, tales, hums, pans, stars, dives, leaves*

When an E is inserted before the S and after S, Z, J, CH, SH sounds so that the added S can be heard distinctly: *passes, buzzes, bridges, pages, catches, rushes*

- The letter Z never appears alone at the end of a word. The consonant team ZE is used. These occur after a vowel team or a consonant letter: *freeze, gauze, maize, bronze*

Exception: *adz*

- In a few words preceding a long U sound or an unstressed I sound, the letter Z makes the ZH sound: *azure, brazier, glazier*

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Shell Card

- Shell - /sh/ - spelled SH
- The SH sound is a Germanic sound for which ancient Latin had no single letter to represent: *shape, shed, rush, mesh, fish, marsh, shrug*
- If the S and H belong to different roots, they maintain their own sounds: *grass-hopper, mis-hap, dishonor*
- The SH sound is made by several other spelling patterns. It is not recommended that these patterns be added to the Sheep card.

When the SH sound occurs before Latin suffixes it is spelled CI, -SCI-, -SI-, -SSI-, or -TI-: *spacious, conscience, tension, passion, partial, ratio, negotiate, nation, clinician, magician*

When the SH sound occurs before an unstressed long U it is spelled -S- or -SS-: *censure, tissue*

- The SH sound is spelled with a CH in words recently borrowed from the French: *chic, chef, chauffeur, parachute, mustache, chateau*. As the need arises, a Post-it with the CH spelling may be added to the Sheep card.

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Thumb Card

- Thumb - /th/ - spelled TH
- TH is a consonant team used to spell a sound of Greek origin. This team can be either voiced or unvoiced.
- TH is voiced:

At the beginning of the pointing words: *the, that, these, there, then, they, them, thy*

Between vowels in native English words: *mother, feather, either, clothes, bathe, loathe, teething, mouthing*

- TH is unvoiced:

At the beginning of nouns, verbs, and adjectives: *thief, thumb, thank, thin, thump, thing*

When it is the first member of the consonant blend THR: *through, three, thrifty, thread*

At the end of a word: *path, death, health, moth, north, south*

In words of Latin origin the unvoiced TH can occur in any position in a word: *therapy, thorax, ethics, sympathy, myth*

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Whale Card

- Whale - /hw/ - spelled WH__
- This is an unvoiced consonant team that appears only at the beginning of words: *when, where, which, why, wheel, whip, whine, whisper*
- When the /hw/ sound is produced, no stream of air is emitted from the mouth
- In some regions, the WH sound is indistinguishable from the W sound, except by holding your fingers up in front of your mouth as you say the words. WH words produce a puff of air when spoken; W words do not.
- Before a long O or OO sounds, WH sounds like H: *who, whom, whose, whole, whooping*

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Cheese Card

- Cheese - /ch/ - spelled CH, __TCH
- The CH sound in the word chick did not occur in the Latin language so CH was used to spell this English sound: *chair, check, chill, chop, chunk, peach, coach, urchin, merchant*

Exception: In the word *yacht*, the CH is silent

- TCH is a consonant team for the sound of CH when it occurs immediately after a short vowel sound in a root word: *catch, etch, ditch, notch, clutch*
- Words with TCH are words that can take the English suffixes – ed, -ing, -er, -es, -y, -en: *richer, catcher, etching, ditches, matched*

Exceptions: some words and syllables have the CH sound after a short vowel but are not spelled with TCH: *which, much, such, bachelor, detach, attach, duchess*

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Train Card

- Train - / / - spelled A, AI __, __AY, A-consonant-silent EA, EI
- The letter A is long and says its name when it is the last letter in a syllable: *ba-by, ta-ble, la-ter, a-corn, ba-king, cradle, fa-tal, va-ca-tion*

When the long A is the last letter in an unstressed syllable, the long A sound is somewhat muffled, sounding more like a short U sound: *away, across, about, around, along, dependable, supremacy*

Exceptions: *water, any, many, papa*

- A is long in the spelling pattern A-consonant-E: *bake, cane, be-have, se-date, con-gre-gate*

This pattern also applies when the consonant space is filled with the consonant teams NG or ST: *change, strange, angel, paste, taste, hasten*

- AI is a vowel team for the long A sound within a root word: *mail, tail, pain, faint, claim, praise, faith*

When AI occurs in an unstressed syllable, it is often muffled and sounds more like a short U sound: *mountain, bargain, captain, curtain, portrait, certain*

- AY is a vowel team for the long A sound at the end of a word or syllable: *pay, day, clay, mayor, prayer, birthday, mayhem*

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Five Card

- Five - / / - spelled I, I-consonant-silent E, IE, IGH, __Y
- The letter I is long when it is the last letter in a syllable: *I, bi-ting, i-de-a, de-ci-ded, twi-light, ri-ot, va-ri-e-ty, bi-o-lo-gy*
- The I is long in the spelling pattern I consonant E: *bite, five, white, guide, de-cide, spe-cia-lize*

Exceptions: Words that have I-consonant-E in an unstressed syllable often have a short I sound: *justice, native, motive adjective*

- IE is long when it is at the end of a root word: *pie, tie, lie*
- IE is long when the Y of a root word is changed to add a suffix: *flies, cried, replies, denied, satisfied*
- IGH is a vowel team for long I. It is left over from old German and old English spelling: *right, light, night, sigh, thigh, knight*
- Y makes the long I sound when it is at the end of a root word: *cry, fly, my, sky, reply, deny, satisfy*
- Y makes the long I sound when it is before another vowel in a root syllable: *cy-an-ide, hy-e-na*
- Y makes the long I sound when it is in the middle of words of Greek origin: *hydrogen, cyclone, stylish, dynasty, hyphen*
- When IND, ILD, and IGN are at the end of a word, the I is long and remains long even when an English suffix is added: *kind, mind, child, sign, signing, wilder, designer*. Do not add these spelling patterns to the Ice Cream card.

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- Five - / / - spelled I, I-consonant-silent E, IE, IGH, __Y
- The letter I is long when it is the last letter in a syllable: *I, bi-ting, i-de-a, de-ci-ded, twi-light, ri-ot, va-ri-e-ty, bi-o-lo-gy*
- The I is long in the spelling pattern I consonant E: *bite, five, white, guide, de-cide, spe-cia-lize*

Exceptions: Words that have I-consonant-E in an unstressed syllable often have a short I sound: *justice, native, motive adjective*

- IE is long when it is at the end of a root word: *pie, tie, lie*
- IE is long when the Y of a root word is changed to add a suffix: *flies, cried, replies, denied, satisfied*
- IGH is a vowel team for long I. It is left over from old German and old English spelling: *right, light, night, sigh, thigh, knight*
- Y makes the long I sound when it is at the end of a root word: *cry, fly, my, sky, reply, deny, satisfy*
- Y makes the long I sound when it is before another vowel in a root syllable: *cy-an-ide, hy-e-na*
- Y makes the long I sound when it is in the middle of words of Greek origin: *hydrogen, cyclone, stylish, dynasty, hyphen*
- When IND, ILD, and IGN are at the end of a word, the I is long and remains long even when an English suffix is added: *kind, mind, child, sign, signing, wilder, designer*. Do not add these spelling patterns to the Ice Cream card.

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- Five - / / - spelled I, I-consonant-silent E, IE, IGH, __Y
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Boat Card

- Boat - / / - spelled O, O-consonant-silent E, OA, OW, __OE
- The letter O is long and sounds like its name when it is the last letter in a syllable: *go, ho-ping, o-pen, to-tal, mo-tion, ex-plo-sion*

Exceptions: in Latin words the O is *often short: tonic, product, astronomy*

- The O is long in the O-consonant-E spelling pattern: *hope, tone, pole, more, remote, explode*

Exceptions: In words of Greek origin, the O_E pattern may be split over a syllable and the O remains long and the E is also long: *epitome, apostrophe, catastrophe*

- OA is a vowel team for the long O sound within a root word: *road, coat, boat, board, throat, hoax, unload, shoal*
- OW is a vowel team for the long O sound at the end of a root word or before a final L or N: *know, slow, below, grown, thrown, shadow*

NOTE: There is no way to tell whether the OW is pronounced as a long O or /ow/ as in cow. Students need to be taught to try both sounds when decoding.

- __OE is a vowel team for the long O sound at the end of a root word: *hoe, toe, oboe, roe, throes*

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Cube Card

- Cube - /_/ - spelled U, U-consonant-silent E, __EW, __EU
- The long vowel U sounds like the name of the letter U and is pronounced /yoo/. The Y sound in the long U is what distinguishes it from the OO sound of food. However, this Y sound is not present in words where the long U sound follows L or R: *brute, flute, fluid, bruin*

This Y sound in the long U sound is also what distorts the S sound in words like: *sure, insure, issue, treasure, visual*

Exceptions: In some Latin words ending in U with only one consonant between the U and the next vowel, the U is long: *accumulate, illuminate*; but in others the U is short: *stu-dy, pu-nish, ju-gu-lar*

- The letter U is long when it is the last letter in a syllable: *u-nit, fu-el, tu-ning, hu-mor, flu, flu-ent*
- The U-consonant-silent E spelling pattern is a long U sound. In some words you can hear the YOO sound: *use, cute, tube, duke, fortune, compute*; and in others you only hear the OO sound because it is suppressed by the R or L: rule, *crude, flute, intrude*
- UE is a vowel team for long U at the end of a root word: *blue, true, statue, value, argue, barbecue, pursue, issue*

Exceptions: When UE follows G or Q in words of French origin, the UE is silent: *league, plaque, catalogue, unique*

- EW is a vowel team for long U at the end of a root word or before a final N: *blew, few, grew, hewn, renewal, mildew*
- EU is another vowel team for long U, however the Greek, Latin, and French words that contain this spelling patterns are not common enough to add to the Sound-Spelling cards.

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Tree Card

- Tree - / / - spelled E, E-consonant-silent E, EA, EE, __Y, __IE__, __EY
- The letter E is long and sounds like the name of the letter E when it is the last letter in the syllable (open syllable): *he, even, Pe-ter, de-cent, se-cret, pre-vi-ous*

Exceptions: In an unstressed syllable, the long E sound can become muffled and sound like a short U (schwa sound): *the, belong, remain, behind*

- The letter E is long in the prefixes be-, de-, e- pre-, re-, and se-: *report, remain, before, debate, evict, preview, repeat, secrete*
- The second E in the E-consonant-silent E spelling pattern remains silent when a syllable beginning with a consonant is added to a word: *eve, here, compete, precede, theme, supreme*

Exceptions: *were, there, where, ere, allege*

- Most long E words are spelled with the EE and EA pattern
- EA is a vowel team for the long E sound. It is used primarily within the root but it can come at the end: *each, read, sea, leaf, stream*

Exceptions: The EA pattern can also be the short E sound. There is no way for the eye to tell which sound is spelled by EA. Students must be taught to try both sounds if necessary.

Exceptions: *beauty* (long U sound), *yea* (long A sound)

- EE is a vowel team for the long E sound. It is used primarily within the root but it can also be at the end: *see, feet, green, needed, flee*

Exceptions: *been, breeches* (short I)

- The letter Y spells the long E sound when it is in a suffix, and is the very last letter of a word: *candy, happy, quickly, history, hurrying*
- The letter Y spells the long E sound when it is unstressed before another vowel: *hal-cy-on*
- The vowel team blank-IE-blank spells the long E sound when it is within a root word: *field, piece, relief, yield, achieve*. NOTE: many of these words end in LD, F, or VE.
- The vowel team IE spells the long E sound when it is a suffix: *birdie, brownie, lassie, eerie*

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Book Card

- Book - /oo/ (short sound) – spelled OO
- OO is a vowel team for the special English sound heard in the words *book* and *cook*. It is the short sound of OO and occurs in the middle of a word: *look, book, cook, good, crook, wood*
- While there is no way for the eye to distinguish between the OO of *cook* and the OO of *moon*, many of these words end with K or D

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Spoon Card

- Spoon - /oo/ (long sound) – spelled OO, U__E, U, __EW, UE, OU, __UI__
- OO is a vowel team for the special English sound heard in *moon*. It is the long sound of OO and occurs both in the middle and at the end of a root word: *zoo, room, school, food, festoon, re-proof, lagoon*
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Cow Card

- Cow - /ow/ - spelled OW, OU
- OW is a vowel team for the sound in owl at the end of a syllable or before a final L and N and sometimes before a final D: *cow, prow, tower, howl, down, crowd, powder*

NOTE: There is no way the eye can distinguish between the OW of *owl* and the OW of *show*, so students should be taught to try both sounds when necessary

- OU is a vowel team for the sound in *owl* and *house* within a word: *loud, proud, count, sour, pronounce, pout*

Exceptions: OU spells a variety of other sounds (*four, soul, though, enough, soup, bought, courage, young, famous*) but students should let context lead them to the correct variation

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Boy Card

- Boy - /oy/ - spelled __OY, OI
- Blank-OY is the spelling for the vowel team for the special English sound in *boy*. It is used at the end of the root word: *toy, joy, annoy, employ, oy-ster, loy-al*
- OI is the spelling for this sound within the root word: *toil, coin, point, moisture, sirloin, voice, asteroid*

Exceptions: in the words *toroise* and *porpoise* the OI is muffled and exhibits the schwa sound (short U)

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Straw Card

- Straw - /aw/ - spelled AW, AU
- The vowel team AW is used for the special English sound in the word *saw*. It is used at the end of a root word and before a final L, N, or K. : *saw, crawl, draw, awful, awkward, brawn*
- Before consonants other than L, N, or K, and with a root word, the special English sound in *saw* becomes AU: *pause, author, daughter, because, jaunt, exhaust*

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Corn Card

- Corn - /or/ - spelled OR, ORE, OAR
- OR occurs in a stressed syllable before a vowel: *orator, orange, forage, authority*
- OR occurs followed by a different consonant within a word: *corn, horse, shorter, morning*

Exceptions: *or, nor, for*

- ORE occurs at the end of a word or syllable: *more, core, before, forethought*

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Shirt Card

- Shirt - /er/ - spelled IR, ER, UR
- IR is a vowel team for the special English sound of ER and can come at the end of a word or within a word followed by another consonant: *sir, fir, bird, dirt, skirt, birch, twirl, squirrel, confirm*
- ER is a vowel team for the special English sound of ER and can come at the end of a word or within a word followed by another consonant. ER is also used as a suffix: *after, never, paper, clerk, herd, person, government*
- UR is a vowel team for the special English sound of ER and can come at the end of a word, within a word followed by another consonant, or doubled between vowels: *fur, blur, nurse, curly, surprise, hurry, curry, murmur*
- When the /er/ sound is pronounced, no stream of air is emitted from the mouth

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Star Card

- Star - /ar/ - spelled AR
- AR is a special letter team for the sound in *artist*. It occurs at the end of a word or is followed by a different consonant sound: *car, far, jar, art, start, harvest, garden, carnival*

Exceptions: In unstressed syllables, the AR sound may sound more like the ER sound: *dollar, sugar, wizard, vinegar, nuclear*

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Sing Card

- Sing - /ng/ - spelled NG, N (within word)
- NG at the end of a word is a consonant digraph representing the sound /ng/. This sound never occurs at the beginning of a word or syllable and always follows a vowel sound.
- N the letter 'n' can represent the sound /ng/ within a word when followed by a 'k' as in the word *sink, pink, wink*.

Possibility 1: N-G combination represents the /ng/ + /g/ as in the word *finger*.

Possibility 2: N-G combination represents the /n/ + /g/ in words with prefix such as *ungrateful, ongoing, engulf*.

Possibility 3: N-G combination represents the /n/ + /j/ as in the word *angel, ranger*.

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Chair Card

- Chair - R-controlled vowels /
air/ /are/ /ear/ /ere/
- AIR: air, chair, fair, flair.
Multisyllabic: affair, repair
- ARE: care, flare, scare, share.
Multisyllabic: aware, be-
ware, prepare
- EAR: bear, pear, swear. Mul-
tisyllabic: underwear
- ERE: where, there

Note: When the letter "r" fol-
lows a vowel, it usually af-
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