PHONICS

Every letter in the alphabet has both a name and a sound. The letters are divided into two groups, consonants and vowels. The vowels are the letters A, E, I, O, and U. All the rest are consonants. Consonants usually have one sound, but vowels have two sounds, a short and a long sound. Some combinations of letters blend to make a new sound. If we know the sounds each letter makes, we can often “sound out” new words when we are reading and we can spell many words we hear, even if we have never seen them spelled on paper.

CONSONANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bed</td>
<td>dog</td>
<td>fun</td>
<td>home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boat</td>
<td>dig</td>
<td>fog</td>
<td>hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bean</td>
<td>dad</td>
<td>four</td>
<td>happy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ball</td>
<td>date</td>
<td>fox</td>
<td>hat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>J</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>joy</td>
<td>kite</td>
<td>light</td>
<td>moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jam</td>
<td>kitten</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>mom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jump</td>
<td>keep</td>
<td>love</td>
<td>mat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jeep</td>
<td>Ken</td>
<td>lap</td>
<td>made</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Q</th>
<th>R</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>noon</td>
<td>pop</td>
<td>quick</td>
<td>run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nap</td>
<td>puppy</td>
<td>quack</td>
<td>rabbit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neat</td>
<td>pat</td>
<td>quiet</td>
<td>row</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>near</td>
<td>pan</td>
<td>quill</td>
<td>rat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>W</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>star</td>
<td>Tom</td>
<td>very</td>
<td>wagon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sew</td>
<td>tar</td>
<td>vice</td>
<td>worry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>snake</td>
<td>tin</td>
<td>victory</td>
<td>win</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sorry</td>
<td>take</td>
<td>vase</td>
<td>white</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xavier</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>zebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xerox</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>zoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x-ray</td>
<td>young</td>
<td>zipper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xylophone</td>
<td>year</td>
<td>zero</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACTIVITY SHEET FOR CONSONANTS

Solve the riddle by writing in a word that begins with the correct letter.

B

Something you use to ride on water_______________________________
What you put soup or cereal in___________________________________
A long, yellow tropical fruit_____________________________________

D

A common pet__________________________________________________
Another name for father_________________________________________
Opposite of night_______________________________________________

F

Opposite of close by_____________________________________________
The number after three___________________________________________
Another name for mist___________________________________________

H

Opposite of cold_________________________________________________
Your house_____________________________________________________
A very small mountain___________________________________________

J

Peanut butter and_______________________________________________
Practical pants are blue_________________________________________
A summer month_______________________________________________

K

A baby cat______________________________________________________
A boy’s name__________________________________________________
A toy for windy days____________________________________________

L

Opposite of hate________________________________________________
Opposite of dark_______________________________________________
Pale purple

M

Another name for mother
The first day of the work week
A popular women’s name

N

Opposite of far
Opposite of messy
What children take in the afternoon

P

A sugary beverage
A young dog
What you cook in

Q

What ducks say
Not noisy
Another word for fast

R

A large mouse-like rodent
Walk, don’t
A color

S

Opposite of fast
What you eat soup with
A winter sport

T

A beverage
A Japanese car
A boy’s name
V
Something to put flowers in___________________________________
A spring flower____________________________________________
A bad habit________________________________________________

W
Opposite of black___________________________________________
Opposite of lose____________________________________________
A season____________________________________________________

Y
A color_____________________________________________________
Not old_____________________________________________________
A pronoun__________________________________________________

Z
An exotic animal____________________________________________
Part of a mailing address_____________________________________
A place for wild animals_____________________________________
CONSONANTS “C” AND “G”

The letter “C” has no sound of its own. It has the sound of “s” or “k”, depending upon the letter which follows it. The letter “C” is usually followed by a vowel or “y”. Which of the following groups have the “K” sound, and which have the “S” sound?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cat</th>
<th>Cold</th>
<th>Cow</th>
<th>Cry</th>
<th>Clot</th>
<th>Close</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cent</td>
<td>Cuff</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>Clot</td>
<td>Close</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigar</td>
<td>Cycle</td>
<td>Cypse</td>
<td>Close</td>
<td>Close</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>City</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centere</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell</td>
<td>Cup</td>
<td>Cup</td>
<td>Cup</td>
<td>Cup</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigar</td>
<td>Cyst</td>
<td>Cyst</td>
<td>Cyst</td>
<td>Cyst</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cart</td>
<td>Cell</td>
<td>Cell</td>
<td>Cell</td>
<td>Cell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>City</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Center</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cart</td>
<td>Cell</td>
<td>Cell</td>
<td>Cell</td>
<td>Cell</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Write four more “C” words with an “S” sound and four with a “K” sound.

The letter “G” has two different sounds, a “hard” sound and the “soft” sound of “J.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gab</th>
<th>Gentleman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gall</td>
<td>Germ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glow</td>
<td>Giant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go</td>
<td>Gin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>Ginger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grab</td>
<td>Gypsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great</td>
<td>Gymnasium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Usually, “G” has a soft sound before “E”, “T”, and “Y”, and a hard sound before any other letter. Write four more words with a soft “G” and four with a hard “G” sound.
CONSONANT COMBINATIONS

Sometimes two consonants next to each other in a word have one sound. The “th” in mother and the “ch” in machine are examples of this. These combinations are called diagraphs: ch, ph, gh, sh, th.

Find the diagraphs in the following words and write it in the space provided. Sound out the diagraphs as you write them.

shake _______ elephant _________ horseshoe _________ ethnic _______
this _________ beach _________ father _________ phone _______
chose _________ laugh _________ peach _________ bunch _______

Write four more words for each of the diagraphs.

VOWELS

The vowels are: A E I O U. Sometimes Y functions as a vowel. Vowels have two sounds, a long sound (-) placed above the vowel and a short (‘).

Long vowels sound just like their names. In the following list, the first sound of the word will be the same as the name of the first letter.

ā    ē    ī    ō    ū
ape  east  idea  over  use
aim  eat  Ida  old  unit
able  easy  ice  open  uniform
apron  each  island  only  unite

Write four more words for each long vowel sound.

VOWELS

Short vowel sounds do not sound like the letter’s name.

ā Sounds like the “a” ē sounds like the “e” ĭ sounds like the “i”
in apple in end in Indian
ax exit ill
ant else is
absent every instead
actor enter important
When a word ends in “e” is silent and the vowel nearest to it has a long vowel sound.

Group 1  Group 2
măd       măde
 căn       căne
wăn       wîne
cŭt       cûte

The only difference between the words in group one and the words in group two is the silent “e” on the end of each word. The vowel sound changes from a short vowel in group one to a long vowel in group two. Say these words aloud. Can you hear the vowel sound change? Write four more words which follow this rule.

When two vowels appear together, the first one has a long vowel sound and the second one is silent. The following sentence is a reminder: “When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking.”

ai  = ā
ay
păd       păid
clăw       clăy
clăm       clăim
pă       păy
răn       răin
slăm       slăy
ea  = ē
V O W E L C O M B I N A T I O N S

Other vowel combinations form new sounds. Long and short ōō sound

fōōt  brōōm
hōōk  rōōm
bōōk  tōō
cōōk  zōō
lōōk  dōōm
stōōd  bōōt
wōōl  gōōse

Some vowel sounds may be spelled several different ways.

V O W E L C O M B I N A T I O N S

au - aw Sound

auto  lawn
Paul  saw
haul  draw
fraud  law
hawk  auction
caught  walk
bald  cost
waltz  dawn
broad

vault

ou - ow Sound

house
cow

ouch
town

loud
owl

er - ir - ur Sound

term
bird
nurse

herd
first
hurt

verb
girl
turn

oi - oy Sound

soil
boy

coin
enjoy

point
toy

Write another word for each of these sounds and underline the vowel.