

Letter Connections Charts

Smaller Version

Print the pages on legal sized white card stock.

Tape the two pages for each letter connections chart together at the middle with clear tape on both sides. Place the chart you want to use on a table or on a small desktop easel. The charts can be folded for storage.

Cut out the strips with the long vowels, short vowels, and vowel patterns. For the vowel-consonant-e patterns also cut out the middle square so that consonants will show through the hole.

The short vowels are printed on the right side of the strips. These strips should be moved down the left side of the consonant columns.

The long vowels, long vowel patterns, and other patterns are printed on the left side of the strips. These strips should be moved down the right side of the consonant columns.

The object is for students to pronounce the combined vowel and consonant combinations smoothly, without separating the sounds, as the teacher moves the cards from one consonant or consonant pattern to the next. The exercise does not always create real words, hence, the combinations are called "silly sounds." Explain to the students that this decoding practice will help them read real words more easily. If you prefer, when you get to the advanced charts, you can skip any nonsense words and just move the letter strips to the combinations that form real words.



To get started, model the pronunciation of each letter combination and have the students repeat after you. Work towards having the students pronounce each combination without your help. It will take a number of practice sessions for students to master each chart.

Start with the easiest charts and gradually introduce the other charts as students learn new consonant and vowel patterns.

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Use this chart with the single short vowel strips. They will be moved down the left side of the consonant columns.

Letter

b

c

d

f

g

j

Connections

Chart # 1

k

s

l

t

m

v

n

x

p

z

Use this chart with any of the other vowel pattern strips and with the short vowels followed by consonants. The strips will be moved down the right side of the consonants.

Letter

b

k

c

l

d

m

f

n

g

p

h

qu

j

r

Connections

Chart # 2

s

t

v

w

x

y

z

Advanced

Letter

sc

bl

sk

cl

sm

fl

sn

gl

sp

pl

st

spl

sw

sl

Connections

Chart # 1

br

tr

cr

str

dr

fr

gr

pr

spr

Use this chart with any of the other vowel pattern strips and with the short vowels followed by consonants. The strips will be moved down the right side of the consonants.

Advanced

Letter

l

c

sl

sc

m

k

sm

sk

n

p

sn

sp

Use this chart with any of the other vowel pattern strips and with the short vowels followed by consonants. The strips will be moved down the right side of the consonants.

Connections

Chart # 2

t

s

st

sh

w

t

sw

th

qu

c

squ

ch

Advanced

Letter

b

f

bl

fl

br

fr

c

g

cl

gl

cr

gr

Use this chart with any of the other vowel pattern strips and with the short vowels followed by consonants. The strips will be moved down the right side of the consonants.

p

pl

pr

t

tr

d

dr

Advanced Letter

s

t

sh

th

shr

thr

c

p

ch

ph

chr

phr

Use this chart with any of the other vowel pattern strips and with the short vowels followed by consonants. The strips will be moved down the right side of the consonants.

Connections Chart # 4

sh

th

ck

tch

nch

ng

nk

Use this chart with the single short vowel strips. They will be moved down the left side of the consonant columns.

a

e

i

o

u

a

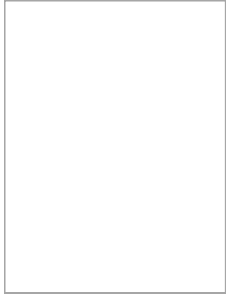
e

i

o

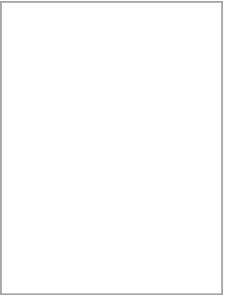
u

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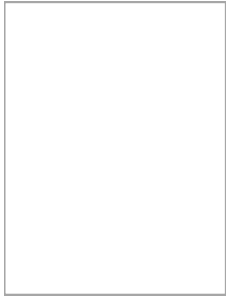
e

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o_e

oll

olt

old

olk

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ue

u_e

ew

eu

oi

oy

ou

ow

oo

oo

ar

or

er

ir

ur

ear

our

ea

ea

ea

ai

ay

ee

oa

ue

Color-Coding Chart - New Colors 2017

a	ant	bright red
ā	rain, play, safe, carrot	dark red
ä	Paul, saw, ball, salt, talk, wasp, swan	pink
e	egg, head, heron	light green
ē	he, feet, weird, key, eat, these, funny	dark green
ë	veil, they, steak, eight, ballet	dark red
i	in, gymnastics	light violet
ī	pie, pine, night, find, wild, my	dark violet
ï	shield, pizza	dark green
o	ox, sorry, father	light orange
ō	go, boat, toe, home, snow, four, gold, bolt, troll, yolk	dark orange
ö	to, moon, soup	dark blue
u	up, what, across, panda, son, love, country	light blue
ū	fruit, cue, cube, few, Europe	dark blue
ü	push, book, should	olive green
oi	oil, boy	gold
ou	ouch, cow	brown
ar	car, sorry	light orange
or	horse	dark orange
ir	bird, her, purse, dollar, tractor	gray
wor	worm, early, journal	gray

For each vowel, the short vowel color and the long vowel color are both in the same color family. The long vowel color is darker than the short vowel color.

Most of the time, if a syllable has a single vowel followed by one or more consonants, the vowel represents its short sound. Short vowels are not marked.

A straight line over a vowel indicates the long vowel sound. Single vowels are long when they are at the end of a syllable. Long vowel sounds that are not at the end of a syllable are usually indicated by vowel pairs. The first vowel in the pair represents its long vowel sound and the second vowel is not pronounced. In "split vowel" pairs, a consonant comes between the first and second vowel. Some long vowel patterns have a single vowel followed by two consonants: night, find, wild, gold, bolt, troll, yolk. These are "follow the leader" patterns.

Two dots over a vowel mean "not the usual sound."

When the letter r comes after a vowel, it usually affects that vowel's sound.

I will be working to put letter connection videos on line at www.soundcityreading.net.

a b

a c

a d

a f

a g

a j

a k

a l

a m

a n

a p

a s

a t

a v

a x

a z

e b

e c

e d

e f

e g

e j

e k

e l

e m

e n

e p

e s

e t

e v

e x

e z

i b

i c

i d

i f

i g

i j

i k

i l

i m

i n

i p

i s

i t

i v

i x

i z

o b

o c

o d

o f

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o j

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o p

o s

o t

o v

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o z

u b

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u j

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u m

u n

u p

u s

u t

u v

u x

u z

a f f

a s s

a z z

a c k

a v e

a d g e

a n g

a n k

a tch

a nch

a sh

a th

e ff

e ll

e s s

e ck

e d g e

e t c h

e n c h

e s h

e t h

i f f

i l l

i s s

i zz

i ck

i ve

i dge

i ng

i nk

i tch

i nch

ish

ith

off

oll

oss

ock

odge

ong

o nk

o tch

o nch

o sh

o th

u zz

u ff

u ll

u s s

u c k

u d g e

u n g

u n k

u t c h

u n c h

u s h

ask

ast

and

amp

aft

est

esk

elt

elf

elp

eld

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