

Common Phonics Rules and Sound Combinations

Phonics teaches kids to break words into small “chunks” so that even the biggest words are easy to read! Here are some common chunks, sounds, and spelling patterns.

Frequently Used Coding Marks

Macron	Breve	Schwa
Used for open vowels or when vowels say their name ā, ē, ī, ō, ū example: nō, gō, hī	Used for short vowels. Short vowels are followed by a consonant. ă, ě, ĭ, ǒ, ŭ Example: căt, mǒp, sīt, pět, cŭp	Looks like an upside down e (ə) when a vowel other than u makes the /u/ sound. Example: banana

Sneaky “e” words/silent “e”: *The final “e” makes the vowel say it’s own name.*

The final “e” is silent or sneaky (VCe).

Examples: cāke, concrēte, dīme, hōse, cūbe

The e, i, or y and Final /k/ Spelling Rules

C says /s/ when it’s before an e, i and y	Soft ġ says /j/ when it’s before an e, i and y (anything else is spelled with letter j)	“K” comes before e, i or y , anything else gets a “c”	Spelling with final /k/ sound
Examples of soft c: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ćircle• ċycle	Examples of soft g: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ġiraffe• Ģesture• Jar• jump	Examples of spelling with “k” or “c”: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• sky• kit• kettle• cat• class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digraph ck - after a short vowel (e.g. back)• Final k - after a consonant or vowel digraph (e.g. look, mask)• Final ke - after a long vowel (e.g., bake)• Final c - multisyllabic word (e.g., picnic, majestic)

Misc spelling rules:

Words don’t end in “v” they end in “ve” (e.g. have, love, give).

Words don’t end in “i” they end in “y” (e.g. sky, fly)

Words don’t end in “o” they end in “ow” (except in words such as no, go, etc.).

Digraphs: *A digraph is two letters that come together to make one sound.*

Consonant digraphs: ck, th, sh, ng, ch ...and many more!

Vowel digraphs: ai, ea, ew, au, ea, ey, aw, ea, ie, ow, ay ei, ie, ue, ei, oa, oo, ee.

Ghost letter digraphs: kn, gn, wr (*the first letter doesn’t make a sound*)

Trigraphs: A *trigraph* is three letters that come together to make one sound.

Trigraphs: dge, igh, tch

Trigraph tch comes after a **short vowel** (e.g. patch). **Digraph ch** comes after a **consonant** (e.g. punch)

Trigraph dge: comes after a **short vowel** (e.g., brīdge) and **ge** comes after a **long vowel or a consonant** (e.g. cage).

Final-Stable-Syllables:

Final...at the end of a word. **Stable**...always the same. **Syllable**... it's own syllable.

Final stable syllables include: □ble, □fle, □cle, □kle, □tle, □zle, □sle, □ple, □dle, □gle, □tion

Tā□**ble**: If a final-stable-syllable comes after an **open syllable**, the vowel will say the **long vowel sound**.

Sād□**dle**: If a final-stable-syllable comes after a **closed syllable**, the vowel will say the **short vowel sound**.

Dropping rule: If a “*sneaky e*” comes in **front of a vowel suffix**, you **drop the “sneaky e”**. If a “*sneaky e*” comes in **front of a consonant suffix** you **leave it!**

make + ing = making

glue + ed = glued

ice + y = icy

Doubling rule: If a root word ends in a **vowel-consonant** (VC) pattern and comes in front of a **vowel suffix**, **double the consonant**.

sit + ing = sitting

shop + ed = shopped

run + y = runny

Wild Colt rule: A vowel could say its name when “i” or “o” is followed by two consonants.

cōld

ōld

fīnd

chīld

wīnd

wīnd

FLOSS rule:

A one syllable word, with a short vowel sound, and ends in “f”, “l”, “s”, double the “f”, “l”, “s”.

moss

sniff

kiss

stuff

bill

cliff

fill

glass

Combinations: Two letters that come together to make an UNEXPECTED SOUND.

ar, ir, qu, wh, er, or, ur

Diphthongs: Two letters that come together so fast they seem to make one sound...but they really make two vowel sounds. Say the sound and pay attention to how your mouth moves with the two vowel sounds.

oi, ou, ow, oy

Additional Phonics Resources

- On youtube search “Sarah Smith Phonics Helps”- Great resource!
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcNsR9LLKm0&list=PLArFXw3UUqSTOVcoJR19k2g9Ljwx3V2eW>
this is the sight word section of Sarah Smith’s help!
- You’ll find lots of fun reading help for kids at the following web address:
<http://www.carlscorner.us.com/>