

# Through the Phonics Barrier

## Student Manual

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Audio-Visual Approach  
to Reading Improvement

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# Through the Phonics Barrier

## The Consonants

The **c**, **g**, and **s** have two sounds; **qu** = *kw*; **x** = *ks*

|          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>b</b> | <b>c</b>  | <b>d</b> | <b>f</b> | <b>g</b> | <b>h</b> | <b>j</b> | <b>k</b> | <b>l</b> | <b>m</b> | <b>n</b> |
|          | <b>c</b>  |          |          | <b>g</b> |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>p</b> | <b>qu</b> | <b>r</b> | <b>s</b> | <b>t</b> | <b>v</b> | <b>w</b> | <b>x</b> | <b>y</b> | <b>z</b> |          |
|          |           |          | <b>s</b> |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |

### Rule I

**c** says *s* before **e i y**

**cents city mice cycle**

**c** says *k* before **a o u**

**cat cow cut**

**g** says *g* before **a o u**

**game go gum**

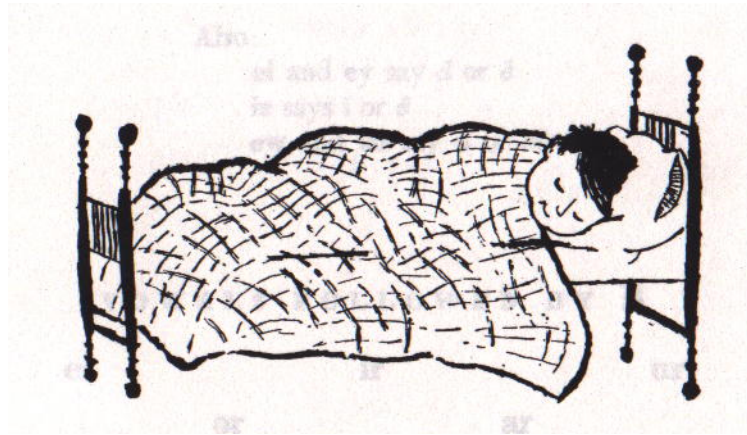
**ge** says *j* at the end of a word

**age bridge**

# The Vowels

The long vowels say their names

**a e i o u y**  
***ā ē ī ō ū ī***



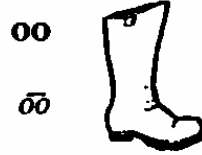
**Fat Ed is not up**

The short vowels are sounded as in “**Fat Ed is not up.**”

**a e i o u y**  
***ă ě ĭ ǒ ŭ ĭ***

**a** also says **ah** (ä)

## Special Vowel Sounds



Read:

oo      ou      oy      aw  
oo      ow      oi      au

## Special Consonant Sounds



sh  
sh



wh  
hw



Read:

th      ch      -ng      sh      wh

## Vowel Digraphs

These generally say the long sound of the first letter:

|          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <i>ā</i> | <i>ē</i> | <i>ī</i> | <i>ō</i> | <i>ū</i> |
| ai       | ee       | ie       | oa       | ue       |
| ay       | ea       |          | oe       | ui       |
|          |          |          | ow       |          |

Also:

**ei** and **ey** say *ē* or *ā*

**ie** says *ē* or *ī*

**ew** and **eu** say *ū* or *ō*

### Vowels Followed by **R**

er

ir

ur

or

ar

Examples: her fir fur or car

### Rule 2

One vowel followed by one or two consonants is short.  
Add an e, and the vowel becomes long. The final e is silent.

**at**    **et**    **it**    **ot**    **ut**

**ate**    **ete**    **ite**    **ote**    **ute**

## Consonant Blends

|     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| br  | sp  | bl  | sk  |
| cr  | spr | cl  | sm  |
| fr  | st  | fl  | sn  |
| dr  | str | gl  | sw  |
| gr  | sc  | sl  | squ |
| pr  | sc  | pl  | tw  |
| tr  | scr | spl |     |
| thr |     |     |     |
| shr |     |     |     |

Also:

chr (*kr*)

sch (*sk*)

## Odd Ways of Writing Some Consonant Sounds

### Silent first letters

wr (*r*)                      gn (*n*)

kn (*n*)                      ps (*s*)

### Other oddities

ph (*f*)

gh (*f, g, or silent*)      ti (*sh*)

rh (*r*)                      si (*sh*)

gu (*g*)                      ci (*sh*)

### le says (*əl*)

ble                      kle

cle                      ple

dle                      sle

fle                      tle

gle                      zle

At this point you have learned all the “bricks” with which printed words are built.

## Combining a Consonant with Long and Short Vowels

ra wa ta ya pa sa da fa ga ha

ja ka la za ca va ba na ma

we re te ye pe se de fe ge he

je ke le ze ce ve be ne me

wi ri ti pi si di fi gi hi ji

ki li zi ci vi bi ni mi

ro to po so do fo go ho jo ko

lo zo vo bo no mo yo co

ru tu yu su du fu gu hu ju

ku lu zu cu vu bu nu mu

## Combining a Consonant Blend with Long and Short Vowels

tra    dra    cra    spra    pra

cha    gla    pla    sta

tre    dre    cre    spre    pre

che    gle    ple    ste

tri    dri    cri    spri    pri

chi    gli    pli    sti

tro    dro    cro    spro    pro

cho    glo    plo    sto

tru    dru    cru    spru    pru

chu    glu    plu    stu

## A/a

|      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| at   | ate  | ack  | ank  |
| am   | ame  | act  | ang  |
| an   | ane  | aff  | al   |
| as   | ase  | aft  |      |
| ax   |      | amp  | (aw) |
| ap   | ape  | ant  | al   |
| ad   | ade  | ance | alt  |
| af   | afe  | anch | all  |
| .ag  | age  | adge |      |
| ak   | ake  | atch | arc  |
| al   | ale  | ath  | ark  |
| .ac  | ace  | ash  | ard  |
| ab   | abe  | asp  | arl  |
| av   | ave  | ast  | arm  |
| az   | aze  | ass  | arn  |
| (ar) | -are | and  | art  |
|      |      | ānge | arb  |
|      |      | āste | arp  |
|      |      | āthe | arge |

## A Words

|      |       |       |        |
|------|-------|-------|--------|
| cab  | map   | wade  | cape   |
| pad  | scrap | made  | tape   |
| lad  | has   | blade | gape   |
| sad  | class | safe  | drape  |
| mad  | mass  | cage  | shape  |
| bag  | glass | rage  | scrape |
| rag  | pass  | badge | hate   |
| pal  | brass | cake  | rate   |
| ham  | grass | lake  | plate  |
| ram  | hat   | make  | crate  |
| jam  | sat   | take  | skate  |
| man  | chat  | pale  | slate  |
| ran  | rat   | male  | gate   |
| pan  | tax   | sale  | cave   |
| fan  | babe  | same  | brave  |
| Jap  | face  | shame | knave  |
| slap | lace  | blame | gave   |
| clap | space | pane  | shave  |
| flap | fade  | lane  | wave   |

## A Words

|        |         |       |        |
|--------|---------|-------|--------|
| blazed | spank   | bath  | harp   |
| gaze   | dance   | path  | large  |
| case   | glance  | cash  | charge |
| chase  | chance  | crash | all    |
| phrase | pant    | clasp | ball   |
| bare   | plant   | past  | wall   |
| share  | scant   | last  | salt   |
| care   | grant   | hard  | malt   |
| rare   | ranch   | lard  | sang   |
| square | branch  | park  | rang   |
| pack   | range   | lark  | clang  |
| lack   | strange | snarl | sprang |
| tact   | change  | harm  | gang   |
| fact   | haste   | farm  | and    |
| chaff  | paste   | barn  | hand   |
| camp   | bathe   | yarn  | land   |
| damp   | scratch | cart  | stand  |
| lamp   | catch   | chart | strand |
| tank   | latch   | garb  | sand   |

## E/e

|      |     |      |       |
|------|-----|------|-------|
| eb   | ebe | ebb  | epth  |
| .ec  | ece | eck  | ess   |
| ed   | ede | edge | esh   |
| ef   | efe | eft  | est   |
| .eg  | ege | egg  | eth   |
| el   | ele | ell  | ext   |
| em   | eme | elf  |       |
| en   | ene | emp  | erb   |
| ep   | epe | end  | erd   |
| es   | ese | ent  | erk   |
| et   | ete | enth | erch  |
| ev   | eve | ench |       |
| ex   |     | ence | eng   |
| ez   | eze | ept  | ength |
| ek   | eke |      |       |
| (er) | ere |      |       |

## E Words

|      |         |        |          |
|------|---------|--------|----------|
| ebb  | theme   | self   | hence    |
| red  | these   | shelf  | kept     |
| Ned  | eve     | hemp   | slept    |
| fed  | Pete    | temp   | depth    |
| fled | peck    | bend   | less     |
| bed  | neck    | when   | yes      |
| sled | check   | lend   | chess    |
| egg  | edge    | trend  | mesh     |
| leg  | ledge   | sent   | guess    |
| Meg  | sledge  | cent   | flesh    |
| gem  | left    | scent  | west     |
| hem  | sell    | went   | best     |
| ten  | cell    | bent   | quest    |
| pen  | tell    | lent   | Beth     |
| men  | yell    | wreck  | her      |
| yet  | jell    | tenth  | herd     |
| let  | well    | here   | jerk     |
| set  | swell   | bench  | perch    |
| next | quell   | wrench | length   |
| when | squelch | fence  | strength |

## I/i

|      |     |       |      |
|------|-----|-------|------|
| it   | ite | ick   | ist  |
| ib   | ibe | ich   | ith  |
| ic   | ice | ict   | itch |
| id   | ide | idge  |      |
| if   | ife | ift   | ird  |
| ig   | ige | ilk   | irl  |
| ik   | ike | ill   | irm  |
| il   | ile | ilt   | irt  |
| im   | ime |       | irp  |
| in   | ine | ince  | irch |
| ip   | ipe | inge  | irst |
| is   | ise | inch  | irth |
| iv   | ive | int   |      |
| ix   |     | imp   | īld  |
| iz   | ize | impse | īnd  |
| (ir) | ire | ish   | ind  |
|      |     | iks   |      |
|      |     | isp   | ink  |
|      |     | iss   | ing  |

## I Words

|      |       |       |        |
|------|-------|-------|--------|
| hit  | lid   | mile  | side   |
| bit  | cliff | smile | life   |
| flit | dig   | file  | strife |
| pit  | bill  | rise  | ridge  |
| sit  | hill  | wise  | bridge |
| sip  | pill  | trim  | Mike   |
| skip | trill | hire  | like   |
| lip  | fill  | mire  | hike   |
| slip | bib   | fire  | hive   |
| clip | rib   | sire  | live   |
| chip | bin   | wire  | dive   |
| drip | fin   | dire  | drive  |
| trip | sin   | bite  | bribe  |
| his  | pin   | white | mine   |
| kiss | him   | site  | thine  |
| hiss | Jim   | quite | dine   |
| miss | mice  | snipe | fine   |
| did  | rice  | ripe  | line   |
| hid  | slice | hide  | swine  |

## I Words

|        |        |         |        |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| scribe | with   | limp    | chirp  |
| time   | rich   | glimpse | shirt  |
| fringe | which  | crisp   | squirt |
| sick   | prize  | lisp    | birch  |
| quick  | hitch  | wisp    | birth  |
| Dick   | pitch  | fix     | mirth  |
| trick  | ditch  | six     | wind   |
| prick  | dish   | strict  | wild   |
| lint   | wish   | guise   | child  |
| hint   | fish   | guilt   | mild   |
| mint   | mist   | quilt   | kind   |
| sift   | wrist  | sir     | find   |
| lift   | milk   | stir    | sing   |
| drift  | silk   | dirt    | ring   |
| sink   | since  | flirt   | fling  |
| drink  | mince  | bird    | swing  |
| think  | prince | first   | spring |
| pinch  | risk   | third   | thing  |
| chintz | whisk  | firm    | bring  |

## O/o

|      |     |      |      |
|------|-----|------|------|
| ob   | obe | ock  | orch |
| oc   | oce | odge | ord  |
| od   | ode | omp  | orge |
| of   | ofe | ompt | ork  |
| og   | oge | ond  | orm  |
| ok   | oke | osh  | orn  |
| ol   | ole | ōld  | ort  |
| om   | ome | ōlt  | orth |
| on   | one | ōst  |      |
| op   | ope | otch | (aw) |
| os   | ose |      | oft  |
| ot   | ote |      | oss  |
| ov   | ove | ong  | ost  |
| ox   |     |      |      |
| oz   | oze |      |      |
| (or) | ore |      |      |

## O Words

|      |       |        |        |
|------|-------|--------|--------|
| cob  | not   | stone  | fore   |
| knob | clot  | hope   | snore  |
| sob  | blot  | rope   | store  |
| snob | plot  | mope   | core   |
| pod  | trot  | slope  | shore  |
| God  | fox   | those  | score  |
| dog  | box   | chose  | chore  |
| hog  | robe  | nose   | block  |
| frog | probe | rose   | stock  |
| fog  | rode  | go     | sock   |
| doll | joke  | lo     | lock   |
| Tom  | poke  | note   | gosh   |
| Don  | hole  | quote  | pomp   |
| hop  | mole  | wrote  | prompt |
| mop  | home  | cove   | pond   |
| pop  | dome  | rove   | fond   |
| drop | Rome  | strove | bond   |
| stop | tone  | froze  | dodge  |
| hot  | zone  | for    | lodge  |

## O Words

|        |        |       |        |
|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| porch  | form   | notch | gong   |
| torch  | born   | colt  | strong |
| scorch | corn   | bolt  | wrong  |
| Ford   | torn   | hold  | soft   |
| cord   | short  | bold  | boss   |
| forge  | fort   | told  | toss   |
| fork   | sport  | most  | loss   |
| cork   | snort  | post  | lost   |
| stork  | north  | song  | cost   |
| storm  | Scotch | long  | frost  |

## U/u

|      |     |      |      |
|------|-----|------|------|
| ub   | ube | uck  | ush  |
| uc   | uce | uff  | ust  |
| ud   | ude | uft  | unce |
| uf   | ufe | ulch |      |
| ug   | uge | ulge |      |
| uk   | uke | ulk  | urb  |
| ul   | ule | *ull | urch |
| um   | ume | *ull | urf  |
| un   | une | ulp  | urge |
| up   | upe | ulse | url  |
| us   | use | ump  | urn  |
| ut   | ute | und  | urst |
| uv   | uve | unk  | urt  |
| ux   |     | unt  | urve |
| uz   |     | unge |      |
| (ur) | ure | unch | ung  |
|      |     | udge |      |
|      |     | uch  |      |
|      |     | utch |      |

\*As in **pull** and **hull**.

## U Words

|      |        |        |         |
|------|--------|--------|---------|
| hut  | cub    | trust  | punch   |
| but  | pulse  | junk   | scrunch |
| shut | plunge | bunk   | dupe    |
| cup  | rub    | hunk   | use     |
| cut  | run    | hump   | fuse    |
| nut  | spun   | mule   | rule    |
| bud  | fun    | chunk  | dude    |
| mud  | pun    | drunk  | surge   |
| cuff | sun    | skunk  | curve   |
| hug  | bun    | trunk  | huge    |
| bug  | hum    | sunk   | gulch   |
| rug  | sum    | cure   | fume    |
| mug  | just   | sure   | duke    |
| dug  | must   | pure   | tube    |
| dull | crust  | cube   | tune    |
| gull | gust   | cute   | fund    |
| pull | dust   | crunch | hunt    |
| full | rust   | lunch  | grunt   |
| tub  | thrust | bunch  | truck   |

## U Words

|        |       |        |       |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| luck   | fudge | turn   | burst |
| truck  | bulge | burn   | rush  |
| suck   | bulk  | spurn  | hush  |
| duck   | pulp  | lurch  | mush  |
| chuck  | June  | church | blush |
| cluck  | jump  | puff   | tuft  |
| pluck  | bump  | much   | sung  |
| Duz    | jug   | such   | rung  |
| tux    | purr  | clutch | flung |
| dunce  | blur  | curb   | swung |
| fund   | slur  | curl   | lung  |
| grudge | fur   | surf   | buzz  |
| judge  | cur   | hurt   | fuzz  |

## Y/y

When **y** is a vowel, it is pronounced  $\bar{i}$  or  $\check{i}$  or like the **y** in party ( $\bar{e}$ ).

| $\bar{i}$ | $\check{i}$ | ( $\bar{e}$ ) |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| by        | system      | party         |
| fly       | nymph       | newly         |
| flying    | gym         | nicely        |
| sky       | cylinder    | hardy         |
| shy       | bicycle     | happy         |
| tying     |             | hardly        |
| dying     |             | baby          |
|           |             | truly         |

## Words with Vowel Digraphs

### ay ( $\bar{a}$ )

|     |     |      |      |       |
|-----|-----|------|------|-------|
| day | may | play | tray | spray |
| say | bay | gray | stay | sway  |

### ai ( $\bar{a}$ )

|     |     |     |     |      |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| ait | ain | aim | ail | aise |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|

### oa ( $\bar{o}$ )

|     |     |      |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| oat | oaf | oak  | oal | oam  |
| oan | oax | oach | oap | oast |

### ee ( $\bar{e}$ )

|     |      |      |     |     |
|-----|------|------|-----|-----|
| eet | eep  | eese | eed | eef |
| eel | eech | eece | een | eem |

Now read these words:

|       |      |       |       |        |
|-------|------|-------|-------|--------|
| wait  | boat | coax  | sleet | feel   |
| paint | loaf | coach | sleep | speech |
| pain  | soak | coast | geese | fleece |
| claim | goal | boast | need  | green  |
| pail  | loan | moan  | beef  | seen   |
| raise | foam | groan | seek  | seem   |

**ea** has three sounds

**ea** ( $\bar{e}$ )

|      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| beat | leap  | tease | bead  |
| beak | seal  | beach | leave |
| leaf | bean  | cream | yeast |
| read | dream | beast | cheat |
| ear  | dear  | tear  | clear |

**ea** ( $\check{e}$ )

|        |        |        |         |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| read   | head   | bread  | health  |
| dead   | breath | lead   | instead |
| wealth | tread  | meadow | leather |
| threat | spread | dread  | weather |
| meant  | behead | thread | feather |

**ea** ( $\bar{a}$ )

|       |       |       |      |
|-------|-------|-------|------|
| great | steak | break | wear |
| bear  | tear  | pear  |      |

**ear** sometimes says **er**

|      |       |       |      |
|------|-------|-------|------|
| earn | learn | heard | earl |
|------|-------|-------|------|

**oe** ( $\bar{o}$ )

toe                      hoe                      goes                      foe

**ow** ( $\bar{o}$ )

low                      bow                      tow                      show

snow                      throw                      grown                      blow

thrown                      bowl                      blown                      flown

**ie** ( $\bar{i}$ )

pie                      tie                      flies                      tries

skies                      cries                      dried                      cried

die                      fries                      died                      fried

**ie** ( $\bar{e}$ )

chief                      field                      fiend                      grief

brief                      fierce                      belief                      achieve

niece                      piece                      yield                      believe

pierce                      relief                      shield                      shriek

**igh** ( $\bar{i}$ )

nigh                      sigh                      high                      right

night                      light                      sight                      slight

fright                      might                      flight                      bright

Here the silent **gh** makes the **i** long and turns **lit** into **light**,  
**fit** into **fight**, **sit** into **sight**, and **mit** into **might**.

**ei, ey** say  $\bar{e}$  or  $\bar{a}$

$\bar{a}$

**eigh** always says  $\bar{a}$

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| eight  | freight  |
| weight | neighbor |

|        |       |
|--------|-------|
| they   | their |
| obey   | vein  |
| convey | veil  |

$\bar{e}$

**cei** always says  $s\bar{e}$

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| receive | ceiling |
| key     | either  |
| monkey  | neither |

## Special Vowel Sounds

*ou*

**ow**

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| cow  | town  |
| how  | owl   |
| now  | frown |
| bow  | growl |
| plow | prowl |
| row  | howl  |
| down | crowd |

**ou**

|        |       |
|--------|-------|
| out    | mouse |
| our    | mouth |
| shout  | round |
| ground | flour |
| house  | loud  |
| hour   | cloud |
| spout  | pound |
| sound  | south |

*aw*

**aw**

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| paw  | drawn |
| saw  | shawl |
| raw  | crawl |
| claw | lawn  |

**au**

|       |
|-------|
| haul  |
| fault |
| cause |
| pause |

*oy*

**oi**

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| oil  | point |
| boil | joint |
| soil | void  |
| join | voice |
| coin | noise |

**oy**

|        |
|--------|
| boy    |
| boys   |
| toy    |
| joy    |
| oyster |

$\bar{o}$  and  $\bar{u}$

**oo**

room two  
stool do  
school to  
food poor  
toot moor

**ew**

chew  
shrewd  
knew  
grew  
brew

**ue**

true  
clue  
due  
glue  
Tuesday

**ui**

fruit  
suit  
pursuit  
recruit

$\bar{oo}$

**oo**

look hood  
took wood  
book foot

**u**

put  
pull  
full

## Odd Ways of Writing Some Consonant Sounds

Three curiosities with silent first letters

| <b>kn</b> |  | <b>wr</b> |        | <b>gn</b> |       |
|-----------|--|-----------|--------|-----------|-------|
| know      |  | write     | wretch | gnaw      | sign  |
| knew      |  | wrote     | wrong  | gnat      | align |
| knee      |  | wrap      | wry    | gnome     | reign |
| knife     |  | wreath    | wrench | gnash     | feign |

Four more curiosities

| <b>rh</b> ( <i>r</i> ) | <b>gu</b> ( <i>g</i> ) |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| rhythm                 | guard                  |
| rhyme                  | guild                  |
| rhetoric               | guilt                  |
| myrrh                  | guess                  |
| rhinoceros             | guest                  |
| rhubarb                | guarantee              |

**ph (f)**

phone

phonics

phrase

graph

phonograph

photograph

telegraph

Philippines

Philadelphia

**gh**

**gh** says *f* in:

tough

rough

enough

cough

trough

laugh

**gh** says *g* in:

ghastly

ghost

aghast

**gh** is silent in:

caught

ought

thought

though

light

through

eight

sleigh

straight

dough

bought

thorough

night

brought

neighbor

Words ending in **le** (*əl*)

|     |        |         |          |
|-----|--------|---------|----------|
| ble | able   | table   | rabble   |
| cle | circle | uncle   | bicycle  |
| dle | paddle | ladle   | handle   |
| fle | rifle  | trifle  | scuffle  |
| gle | gargle | wiggle  | struggle |
| kle | tackle | twinkle | sparkle  |
| ple | apple  | maple   | steeple  |
| tle | little | battle  | turtle   |
| zle | puzzle | sizzle  | dazzle   |

The sound *sh* is spelled five ways

|    |        |                |             |          |
|----|--------|----------------|-------------|----------|
| sh |        | she            | shoot       |          |
| ti | -tion  | nation         | station     |          |
|    |        | education      | starvation  |          |
|    |        | attention      | partition   |          |
|    |        | vacation       | vaccination |          |
|    |        | transportation |             |          |
|    | -tial  | initial        | spatial     | partial  |
|    | -tious | cautious       |             | captious |
| si | -sion  | mission        | pension     | session  |
| ci | -cial  | special        | facial      |          |
|    | -cious | precious       | gracious    | spacious |
|    | -cient | sufficient     | deficient   |          |
| ch |        | machine        | Chicago     |          |

**ch** has three sounds

|                  |           |               |
|------------------|-----------|---------------|
| ch ( <i>ch</i> ) | church    | child         |
| ch ( <i>sh</i> ) | machine   | Chicago       |
| ch ( <i>k</i> )  | school    | scheme        |
|                  | ache      | stomach       |
|                  | chrome    | chronic       |
|                  | Christmas | chrysalis     |
|                  | Christian | chrysanthemum |

The sound *ch* is spelled two ways

|    |        |         |
|----|--------|---------|
| ch | church | chicken |
| tu | nature | actual  |
|    | future |         |

*zh*

There is one more sound which you will hear in the following words. We write the sound *zh*, but it is spelled **s** or **z**, never **ss**.

|          |           |         |
|----------|-----------|---------|
| treasure | occasion  | seizure |
| pleasure | collision | azure   |
| leisure  | casual    |         |

## A Spelling Rule

|        |          |          |          |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|
| pine   | pin      | hope     | hop      |
| pining | (pining) | hoping   | (hoping) |
|        | pinning  |          | hopping  |
| pined  | pinned   | hoped    | hopped   |
| dine   | din      | swim     | hug      |
| dining | dinning  | swimmer  | hugged   |
| dined  | dinned   | swimming | hugging  |
| diner  | dinner   |          |          |

### *Spelling*

1. When a word ends in **e** drop the **e** before adding **ing**, **er**, or **ed**.
2. Before adding **ing**, **ed**, or **er** to a one-syllable word with a short vowel, double the last consonant to keep the vowel short.

### *Reading*

With words ending in **ing**, **er** and **ed**, the first vowel is long before one consonant and short before two consonants.

## Homonyms

their there

one won

no know

blue blew

wait weight

whole hole

heel heal

write right

new knew

sight site

to

too

two

vane

vein

vain

## Regular Irregularities

**wor** generally says **wer**

word            worst            worship

work            worth            worms

world            worry

**er** says **air** in some words

there            herring            Bearing Strait

where            periscope            perish

ferry            ceremony            very

**ir** says **ear** in some words

irrelevant            irritate            irradiate

Unaccented Suffixes have short vowel sounds

ain

captain      Britain      certain      fountain

age

baggage      manage      advantage      damage

ive

active      effective      detective      defective

ous

famous      marvelous      dangerous      mountainous

ine

examine      imagine      engine      discipline

## Common Words with Strange Spellings

### 1. Short vowels instead of long (o says ũ)

some      live      again

come      give      been

love      were      does

glove      are      said

have      done

### 2. Different vowel sounds than you would expect

many      four      do      move

any      you      to      prove

what      your      into      pretty

carry      marry

3. Find the silent consonants (Hint: They are in *italics*)

isle                  *comb*                  doubt                  answer

island                *lamb*                  debt                  yacht

*salmon*                *climb*                  often                  hour

whistle                *bomb*                  palm                  two

*limb*                  *calm*                  *psalm*

4. Just strange

one                  woman                  could                  walk

once                  women                  would                  talk

eye                  of                  should                  chalk

## Long Words

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| kang a roo        | kangaroo       |
| hel i cop ter     | helicopter     |
| car pen ter       | carpenter      |
| air plane         | airplane       |
| sat el lite       | satellite      |
| tel e scope       | telescope      |
| par a chute       | parachute      |
| pro pel ler       | propeller      |
| tri an gle        | triangle       |
| sub ma rine       | submarine      |
| com mo tion       | commotion      |
| ed u ca tion      | education      |
| trans por ta tion | transportation |
| trans par ent     | transparent    |
| trans for ma tion | transformation |

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| con ver sa tion  | conversation  |
| as ton ish ment  | astonishment  |
| pun ish ment     | punishment    |
| pave ment        | pavement      |
| ev i dence       | evidence      |
| con tain er      | container     |
| re tain er       | retainer      |
| con cen tra ting | concentrating |
| hap haz ard      | haphazard     |
| buz zard         | buzzard       |
| med i cine       | medicine      |

## Unfamiliar Words

analysis

atmosphere

composition

equivalent

esoteric

calumniate

antitransubstantiation

antidisestablishmentarianism

a nal' y sis

at' mos phere

com' po si' tion

e quiv' a lent

es' o ter' ic

ca lum' ni ate

an ti tran' sub stan' ti a' tion

an ti dis' es tab' lish men ta' ri an ism

anti dis establish men ta ri an ism

## **Supplementary Work**

This work has been found valuable for the high-school or college student who has been reading inaccurately for years. It will focus his attention on things that have been confusing him and will clear up many problems. The misspellings on pages 58 and 59 provide valuable drill in accurate reading because it is not possible to guess the pronunciation. Except for the French words, this sort of thing is not necessary for a young child or for one who was started correctly in reading.

## WORDS OF FRENCH ORIGIN

English words of French origin offer special difficulty because they are based on French, instead of English, phonics.

**eau** says  $\bar{o}$

**beau château tableau trousseau**  
(In **beauty** and **beautiful**, we have  
anglicized the pronunciation)

The letter **i** says  $\bar{e}$ ; **que** says **k**

**technique antique physique clique pique**

**gue** says *g*; **ngue** says *ng*

**fatigue intrigue tongue harangue**

The final consonant is silent, and **et** is pronounced  $\bar{a}$

**bouquet croquet ballet sachet**

**ch** says *sh* or *k*, *never ch*

**chamois chauffeur machine Charlotte technique**

**é** and **ée** say  $\bar{a}$

**fiancée risqué negligee protégé**

**ge** is pronounced *zh*

**loge garage barrage**

**ou** says  $\bar{o}$ ,  $\bar{oo}$  or  $\bar{o}$ , *never ou*

**boudoir silhouette bouquet**

## IRREGULAR VOWEL DIGRAHS

Some vowel digraphs like **oa** and **ee** are perfectly regular. Others are not. We have made up a rule which accounts for many nonphonetic words.

The rule is that vowel digraphs are pronounced: (1) usually like the long sound of the first letter; (2) sometimes like the long sound of the second letter; (3) less frequently like the short sound of the second letter; (4) least frequently like the short sound of the first letter. Some examples are missing, we admit. Can you supply them? There are some other pronunciations, too.

Many of these words are spelling “demons.” If you concentrate on the sound of the digraph as you read them, you will have no trouble spelling them.

| ui          |        | ai          |         | ay                 |
|-------------|--------|-------------|---------|--------------------|
| $\bar{u}$   | suit   | $\bar{a}$   | wait    | $\bar{a}$ say      |
| $\bar{i}$   | guide  | $\bar{i}$   | aisle   | $\bar{i}$ ay       |
| $\check{i}$ | build  | $\check{i}$ | captain | $\check{i}$ always |
| $\check{u}$ | _____  | $\check{a}$ | plaid   | $\check{a}$ _____  |
| $\bar{o}$   | bruise |             |         |                    |

| ie                   | ey                | ei                  |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| $\bar{i}$ pie        | $\check{i}$ money | $\bar{e}$ receive   |
| $\bar{e}$ chief      | $\bar{e}$ ke      | $\bar{i}$ height    |
| $\check{i}$ mischief | $\bar{i}$ eye     | $\check{i}$ forfeit |
| $\check{e}$ friend   | $\bar{a}$ obey    | $\bar{a}$ eight     |
|                      | $\check{e}$ _____ | $\check{e}$ heifer  |

What are the vowel sounds in these spelling demons?

| ei           | ie       |
|--------------|----------|
| weird        | sieve    |
| perceive     | siege    |
| seize        | kerchief |
| heir         | tries    |
| leisure      | replies  |
| seismograph  | fierce   |
| obeisance    |          |
| kaleidoscope |          |
| sleight      |          |
| surfeit      |          |
| reign        |          |
| foreign      |          |

The vowel combinations **oi** and **oy** are regular, but **au** and **ow**, and **ou**, are not. The joker of the lot is **ou**, which has at least eight pronunciations. Do not try to learn these eight; just learn to spell these particular words.

| <b>au</b> |        | <b>ou</b> |         |           |         |
|-----------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| <i>au</i> | taught | <i>ou</i> | out     | <i>oo</i> | soup    |
| <i>ā</i>  | aunt   | <i>ō</i>  | soul    | <i>ōō</i> | should  |
| <i>ā</i>  | gauge  | <i>ū</i>  | Houston | <i>er</i> | glamour |
| <i>ū</i>  | double | <i>aw</i> | bought  |           |         |

What sound do **ou** and **aw** have in these words?

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| group      | famous     |
| croup      | laugh      |
| cantaloupe | laughter   |
| country    | restaurant |
| courteous  | exhausted  |
| journey    | jaunt      |

## HELP IN ELIMINATING REVERSALS IN SPELLING AND READING

### *Section 1*

On the left-hand side of this page, we have some of the same old digraphs or diphthongs which have a single sound within a syllable. On the right-hand we side, the same letters happen to occur in reverse order, but always they are read as two separate vowel sounds, each in a different syllable. The word is divided into syllables between these vowels.

**ai** train  
Britain

**i•a** dial, Columbia, trial, Siam  
diary, diaphanous, piano

**au** fraud

**u•a** truant, spiritual

inexhaustible

**oe** toe

**\*e•o** stereotype, cameo, beauteous

**ou** out

**u•o** duo, virtuous

**oa** boat

**a•o** chaotic

unloading

\*There is positively no excuse for the word “people”!

## Section 2

In the first two columns we have pairs of digraphs which are reversals of each other and in the last, words which have these same two letters side by side, were again the words are divided into syllables between two vowels. **ae** is a new digraph occurring only in a few Greek words. It says  $\bar{e}$ .

|                  |                 |   |
|------------------|-----------------|---|
| <b>ie</b> pie    | <b>ei</b> seize | <b>i·e</b> client, orient,              |
| believe          | weird           | variety, science                        |
|                  | inveigh         | <b>e·i</b> reinforce, deity             |
| <b>ui</b> fruit  |                 | <b>u·i</b> ruin                         |
| unsuitable       |                 | <b>i·u</b> diurnal, triumphant          |
| <b>eu</b> feud   | <b>ue</b> cue   | <b>e·u</b> deum                         |
| deuce            | accrued         | <b>u·e</b> duet, cruel, fluent          |
| Teutonic         |                 |   |
| <b>ea</b> bead   | <b>ae</b> Aesop | <b>e·a</b> cereal, beaultude,           |
| repeated         | Thermopylae     | create, Aegean Sea                      |
| <b>oi</b> anoint |                 | <b>o·i</b> heroic                       |
| embroider        |                 | <b>i·o</b> inferior, pious,<br>glorious |

### Section 3

Obviously you can have vowels before and after the letter **r**. The first column has the regular vowel-**r** combinations you have learned, with examples. The second column contains words in which the vowel follows the **r**. The **r** is then just the first letter of a syllable followed by a vowel, or is part of the beginning blend. In the third column, words are divided into syllables between the vowel and **r**. There will be no trouble reading or spelling these words if you sound them from left to right.

|    |           |    |            |         |
|----|-----------|----|------------|---------|
| ur | burnt     | ru | brunt      | uranium |
|    | Turk      |    | truck      |         |
|    | spurn     |    | prunes     |         |
|    | spurious  |    | truculent  |         |
| er | stern     | re | rest       |         |
|    | fervent   |    | frequently | berate  |
|    | perhaps   |    | prevent    |         |
| ir | girl      | ri | grill      | siren   |
|    | irradiate |    | rival      |         |
|    | satirical |    | intricate  |         |
|    | affirm    |    | infringe   |         |
| ar | star      | ra | rats       | arise   |
|    | sharper   |    | shrapnel   | around  |
|    | warp      |    | wrap       |         |

|           |            |           |              |         |
|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| <b>or</b> | form       | <b>ro</b> | from         | prorate |
|           | formidable |           | affront      |         |
|           | restoring  |           | astronomy    |         |
|           | torment    |           | introduction |         |

#### *Section 4*

In these words, we see **io**, **ia**, **ua**, which are not digraphs, occurring in a single syllable. Figure out why.

|         |          |         |          |         |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| caution | precious | pension | initial  | special |
| Russia  | familiar | Guam    | persuade |         |

## HOW DO YOU DIVIDE WORDS INTO SYLLABLES?

Written syllables do not correspond exactly with spoken ones. In writing, we divide after the vowel when it is long, as in **ras bies**, and after the consonant if the vowel is short, as in **cab i net**. In speaking, we always put the consonant with the following vowel and say **ca bi net**, **ra dish**, **cre dit**. So here we have a thoroughly arbitrary distinction between the way we pronounce a word and the way we divide the same word at the end of a line of print.

Study the words on pages 54 and 55. The first column has words with closed first syllables and double consonants. These are divided between the consonants.

The words in the second column start with open syllables ending in long vowel sounds. These are divided after the first vowel.

The words in the last column have a short first vowel, followed by a single consonant and so are always divided after the consonant.

This is not a complete rule for dividing into syllables, but it will help in many instances. Written words are divided according to their historical origins; you will often have to consult the dictionary to find the correct way to divide them. For instance, **vaccinate** and **accurate** both have syllables ending in vowels, in which the vowels are short. These syllables are unaccented.

In teaching yourself to spell these words, read them by syllables mentally dividing according to the dictionary practice, not according to the way you would ordinarily say them. Pronounce both the double consonants in words in the first column. Thus you will get a picture of the word which will help solve the old spelling problem, "One consonant or two?"

Notice there must be two **cc**'s in words like **accident**, **succeed**, and **vaccinate** because there is both a *k* and *s* sound.

1. A closed syllable ends in a consonant; the vowel is short.

Example: **rab** (*răb*)

2. An open syllable ends in a vowel which has a long sound.

Example: **ra** (*rā*)

closed syllable

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| rabble    | rab' ble     |
| cabbage   | cab' bage    |
| riddle    | rid' dle     |
| adder     | ad' der      |
| taffy     | taf' fy      |
| raffle    | raf' fle     |
| affable   | af' fa ble   |
| accident  | ac' ci dent  |
| succeed   | suc ceed'    |
| vaccinate | vac' ci nate |
| accurate  | ac cu' rate  |
| occasion  | oc ca' sion  |

open syllables

rabies      ra´ bies  
cable      ca´ ble  
ladle      la´ dle  
radio      ra´ di o  
profess      pro fess´  
prefer      pre fer´  
professor      pro fes´ sor  
recess      re cess´  
locate      lo´ cate  
December      De cem´ ber  
decency      de´ cen cy  
grocer      gro´ cer

closed syllables

cabinet      cab´ i net  
probably      prob´ a bly  
radish      rad´ ish  
credit      cred´ it  
preference      pref´ er ence  
preface      pref´ ace  
profit      prof´ it  
facet      fac´ et  
decorate      dec´ or ate  
pacify      pac´ i fy  
decorous      dec´ o rous  
second      sec´ ond

## THE TEST

These are two groups of two and three words that were confused and misread by high-school and college students. You should read them all perfectly.

burnt

silver

flatter

brunt

sliver

falter

Turk

slit

remained

truck

silt

remnant

spurn

spilt

plot

prunes

split

pilot

fervent

plaster

angle

frequent

psalter

angel

perhaps

thorn

sown

prevent

throne

snow

girl

swallow

plane

grill

sallow

panel

star

grid

pallor

rats

gird

player

sharper

cold

shrike

shrapnel

clod

shirk

wrap

private

shirt

wrap

pirate

skirt

form

flout

hospital

from

fault

hospitable

|            |           |              |
|------------|-----------|--------------|
| pleat      | glitter   | stereotype   |
| pelt       | guilder   | stereoscope  |
| irreverent | swarm     | waive        |
| irrelevant | warms     | native       |
| formerly   | shoulder  | united       |
| formally   | soldier   | untied       |
|            | solider   |              |
| stilt      | solder    | lamp         |
| slit       |           | psalm        |
|            | guard     |              |
| stride     | gradual   | martial      |
| stirred    |           | martial      |
|            | reveled   |              |
| not        | relived   | slave        |
| ton        |           | salve        |
|            | blot      |              |
| blame      | bolt      | advantage    |
| balm       |           | adventure    |
|            | starlet   |              |
| smile      | startle   |              |
| simile     |           | calvary      |
|            |           | cavalry      |
|            | diary     |              |
| sheep      | dairy     | charter      |
| sleep      |           |              |
|            | ingenuous |              |
| quite      | ingenious | undetermined |
| quiet      |           | undermined   |
|            | diet      |              |
| sucker     | deity     | scared       |
| ruckus     |           | scarred      |
|            | dictation | sacred       |
| glide      | direction |              |
| gild       |           |              |

## TYPICAL ERRORS IN SPELLING

These words were misspelled on one term paper by one Stanford University sophomore. Since he paid to have the paper typed and the spelling corrected, his professor never knew what he missed. Incidentally, the student failed the course.

Read exactly what the student wrote and then read what he thought he was writing. Notice that only two misspellings are phonetic.

What can you learn from this? Just that you should read the word that you have written to see whether it says what you thought it did. Of course, this poor fellow does not know enough phonics to do that, but by this time you do. Many people never think of this simple way to check their spelling.

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| devolped     | developed      |
| succeful     | successful     |
| suspetable   | susceptible    |
| coloinzation | colonization   |
| lake         | lack           |
| centralizion | centralization |
| sacifed      | sacrificed     |
| languge      | language       |
| religon      | religion       |
| Molems       | Moslems        |
| laughting    | laughing       |
| equiptment   | equipment      |

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| muscules    | muscles       |
| stringe     | stringy       |
| abominal    | abominable    |
| apponites   | opponents     |
| porportant  | proportioned  |
| persistant  | persistent    |
| aquaitances | acquaintances |
| appeartly   | apparently    |
| secession   | succession    |
| tempeture   | temperature   |
| wreasling   | wrestling     |
| licked      | liked         |
| ritch       | rich          |
| freakles    | freckles      |
| hungery     | hungry        |
| persaude    | persuade      |
| valubale    | valuable      |
| lissoned    | listened      |
| volient     | violent       |
| desortion   | distortion    |
| avable      | available     |

## GHOSTS

Are you having trouble by ghosts when you spell? Almost everybody is. This phonics system should have cleared up many of them, but you will have to conjure up you own particular ones and exorcise them.

For example, do you wonder if there should be a **z** in **surprise**? If you did it is because the ghost of **prize** is haunting you.

Does the spelling of **forty** bother you? If so, it is because the ghost of **four** and **fourteen** are haunting you.

One woman said she had to look up both **angel** and **angle** every time she spelled them. How would you straighten her out?

What are your particular ghosts?

All words ending in **ance** and **ence**, **ant** and **ent**, **ble** and **ible**, **ary** and **ery** have ghosts. You can not tell from the sound how to spell these words; you must learn them or look them up in the dictionary every time.

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| ance         | ant           |
| resistance   | resistant     |
| attendance   | attendant     |
| extravagance | extravagant   |
| ence         | ent           |
| persistence  | persistent    |
| confidence   | confident     |
| independence | independent   |
| able         | ible          |
| desirable    | inexhaustible |
| available    | convertible   |
| comfortable  | sensible      |
| ary          | ery           |
| dictionary   | cemetery      |
| secretary    | confectionery |

## THE SPELLING DEMONS

|              |           |         |
|--------------|-----------|---------|
| ache         | color     | getting |
| after        | coming    | girl    |
| again        | cough     | grammar |
| all right    | could     | guess   |
| although     | countries | half    |
| always       | country   | having  |
| among        | dear      | hear    |
| answer       | doctor    | heard   |
| any          | does      | helped  |
| around       | done      | here    |
| been         | don't     | hoarse  |
| beginning    | early     | horse   |
| believe      | easy      | hour    |
| a blue dress | enough    | house   |
| break a leg  | even      | knew    |
| built        | every     | know    |
| business     | February  | laid    |
| busy         | finally   | large   |
| buy          | first     | largest |
| by           | forty     | like    |
| can't        | four      | liked   |
| captain      | friend    | loose   |

|                  |                |           |
|------------------|----------------|-----------|
| choose           | get            | lose      |
| make             | separate       | trouble   |
| making           | shoes          | truly     |
| many             | should         | Tuesday   |
| meant            | since          | used      |
| minute           | some           | was       |
| much             | straight       | wear      |
| none             | sugar          | Wednesday |
| often            | sure           | week      |
| one              | tear the paper | were      |
| once upon a time | their house    | when      |
| only             | there they are | where     |
| other            | these          | whether   |
| people           | they           | which     |
| piece of pie     | things         | while     |
| raise            | think          | with      |
| read             | this           | woman     |
| ready            | though         | women     |
| receive          | through        | won't     |
| said             | tired          | would     |
| say              | too big        | write     |
| says             | two cats       | writing   |
| seems            | took           | written   |
| seen             | tonight        | wrote     |

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This document contains only the **student's part** of the program. *The Briefing* (a brief yet insightful introduction to phonics) and *The Teacher's Manual* (with detailed instructions for every page in the student material) are also available for free download from the **Education Page** of the [www.donpotter.net](http://www.donpotter.net) web site.

Every teacher and student who uses this edition of *Through The Phonics Barrier* owes a great debt of gratitude to Mrs. Walcutt who has given me her kind permission to republish her husband's unique phonics-first reading method. It is only to be distributed free of charge. I have no financial interest whatsoever in the program. My only motivation is to provide the citizens of America, young and old alike, with the opportunity to learn to read.

I was a public school teacher for twenty-one years. Presently I teach Spanish and remedial reading for the *Odessa Christian School* in Odessa, TX.

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