

# A Beka Book - Basic Sounds

## *Six Easy Steps to Reading*

- Step 1.** Learn to recognize the short vowels and their sounds (Chart 1)  
**ă** in apple, **ĕ** in elephant, **ĭ** in Indian or Inch Worm; **ŏ** in ostrich,  
**ŭ** in umbrella
- Step 2.** Learn to recognize the consonants and their sounds (Chart 2)  
**t** in table; **l** in lamp; **b** in bell; **n** in nest; **m** in milk; **h** in horse;  
**s** in sun; **c** in cat; **d** in dog; **g** in goat; **r** in ring; **f** in fox; **j** in jar; **k** in kite;  
**v** in violin; **w** in wagon; **y** in yarn; **p** in pig, **z** in zebra,  
**qu** in queen; **x** in fox, box, ax.
- Step 3.** Learn to blend a consonant and vowel together (Chart 3, 3A,)  
Example with **t**: tă, tĕ, tĭ, tŏ, tŭ.
- Step 4.** Learn to sound one-vowel words (Chart 4A)  
Example: băg, bĕg, bĭg, bŏg, bŭg.
- Step 5.** Learn the sounds of the long vowels (Chart 5)  
**ā** in acorn; **ē** in eagle, **ī** in ice cream; **ō** in open, **ū** in uniform.  
Sample Blends: bă bā, bĕ bē, bĭ bī, bŏ bō, bŭ bū.  
Examples: bākĕ, pāid, prāy; Pētĕ, mēĕt, bēach, bē; kītĕ, flȳ;  
hōpĕ, cōat, gō; cūtĕ, blūĕ, tūnĕ
- Step 6.** Learn and apply the 132 special phonics sounds and cue words.
- Chart 6: **ck** in duck, **e** in me, **o** in go, **ay** in pray, **st** in stop, **pl** in plane,  
**fr** in frog, **tr** in train, **sh** in ship, **th** in think, **th** in this, **bl** in block,  
**cl** in clock, **fl** in flake, **gl** in glue.
- Chart 7: **br** in bride, **dr** in drum, **pr** in pray, **gr** in grin, **sm** in smoke, **sc** in scat,  
**sk** in skate, **sp** in spade, **cr** in crab, **tw**, in twin, **spl** in splash,  
**spr** in sprain, **scr** in scream, **squ** in squeak, **sn** in snack, **sl** in sleep,  
**str** in stream, **sw** in swim.
- Chart 8: **thr** in three, **ar** in stars, **ch** in church, **or** in morning, **ou** in out,  
**ow** in owl, **ow** in bowl, **er** in verse, **ur** in nurse, **ir** in bird, **oi** in coin,  
**oy** in boy, **oo** in book, **oo** in tooth, **wor** in worms, **igh** in night,  
**all** in ball, **alk** in walk.

Chart 9: **ing** in pointing, **kn** in knot, **gn** in gnat, **ang** in bang, **ing**, king, **ong** in long, **ung** in strung, **ank** in bank, **ink** in wink, **onk** in honk, **unk** in trunk, **wa** in wash, **a** in adopt, **y** in baby, **le** in little, **-ed** in wanted, **-ed** in looked, **ed** in played.

Chart 10: **wh** in whale, **wh** in who, **tch** in patch, **ear** in ēar, **ear** in beār, **ear** in earth, **old** in gold, **mb** in lamb, **ew** in flew, **ew** in few, **y** in rainy, **er** in bigger, **es** in biggest, **ly** in slowly, **en** in sharpen, **es** in peaches, **ild** in child, **ind** in kind.

Chart 11: **o** in shovel, **a** in banana, **c** in city, **au** in faucet, **aw** in saw, **ea** in lēaf, **ea** in thrēad, **ea** in steāk, **ie** in brownie, **ey** in key, **ey** in obey, **ph** in phone, **ch** in chorus, **ought** in thought, **ought** in caught, **g** in giant, **dge** in fudge.

Chart 12: **a** in asleep, **al** in also, **be** in because, **en** in enjoy, **un** in unbutton, **wr** in wrinkle, **ould** in could, **air** in hair, **u** in push, **ough** in enough, **ou** in country, **arr** in carry, **ire** in fire.

Chart 13: **-ful** in beautiful, **are** in care, **tain** in mountain, **ure** in pure, **ture** in pasture, **war** in warm, **tion** in nation, **sion** in missionary, **sion** in television, **eigh** in eight, **or** in sailor, **ar** in dollar, **y** in crystal, **err** in cherry.

Special Sounds with Vowel Blends: stă stā, stĕ stē, stĭ stī, stŏ stō, stŭ stū. The teachers and students **must** be able to read all these types of blends without hesitation. In other phonics programs, these Special Sounds that begin are often called “Beginning (Initial) Consonant Blends” or Beginning (Initial) Consonant Combinations.”

## The A Beka Book 132 Special Sounds in Alphabetical Order

**a** in adopt, **a** in asleep, **a** in banana, **air** in hair, **al** in also, **alk** in walk,  
**all** in ball, **ang** in bang, **ank** in bank, **ar** in stars, **are** in care, **are** in dollar,  
**arr** in carry, **au** in faucet, **ought** in caught, **aw** in saw, **ay** in pray, **be** in because,  
**bl** in block, **br** in bride, **c** in city, **ch** in chorus, **ch** in church, **ck** in duck,  
**cl** in clock, **cr** in crab, **dge** in fudge, **dr** in drum, **e** in me, **ea** in leaf, **ea** in steak,  
**ea** in thread, **ear** in bear, **ear** in earth, **ear** in ēar, **ed** in looked, **ed** in played,  
**ed** in wanted, **eigh** in eight, **en** in enjoy, **en** in sharpen, **es** in peaches, **er** in bigger,  
**er** in verse, **err** in cherry, **es** in biggest, **ew** in few, **y** in rainy, **ew** in flew, **ey** in key,  
**ey** in obey, **fl** in flake, **fr** in frog, **ful** in beautiful, **g** in giant, **gl** in glue, **gn** in gnat,  
**gr** in grin, **ie** in brownie, **igh** in night, **ild** in child, **ind** in kind, **ing** in pointing,  
**ing** king, **ink** in wink, **ir** in bird, **ire** in fire, **kn** in knot, **le** in little, **ly** in slowly,  
**mb** in lamb, **o** in go, **o** in shovel, **oi** in coin, **oy** in boy, **old** in gold, **ong** in long,  
**onk** in honk, **oo** in book, **oo** in tooth, **or** in morning, **or** in sailor, **ou** in country,  
**ou** in out, **ough** in enough, **ought** in thought, **ould** in could, **ow** in owl, **ow** in bowl,  
**ph** in phone, **pl** in plane, **pr** in pray, **sc** in scat, **scr** in scream, **sh** in ship,  
**sion** in missionary, **sion** in television, **sk** in skate, **sl** in sleep, **sm** in smoke,  
**sn** in snack, **sp** in spade, **spl** in splash, **spr** in sprain, **squ** in squeak, **st** in stop,  
**str** in stream, **sw** in swim, **tain** in mountain, **tch** in patch, **th** in think, **th** in this,  
**thr** in three, **tion** in nation, **tr** in train, **ture** in pasture, **tw** in twin, **u** in push,  
**un** in unbutton, **ung** in strung, **unk** in trunk, **ur** in nurse, **ure** in pure, **wa** in wash,  
**war** in warm, **wh** in whale, **wh** in who, **wor** in worms, **wr** in wrinkle, **y** in baby,  
**y** in crystal

**Special Note:** It is important to note that the Special Sounds are actually spelling patterns that represent speech sounds. There are only 44 speech sounds (phonemes) in the English language. The 132 Special Sounds are a small fraction of the phonics taught in the program. The consonants, short vowels, and long-vowels spelled with two letters are not included in the 132 Special Sounds, except for a few exceptions (**ea** has three sounds). The Special Sounds relate especially to the spelling program, which is one of the strong points of the first and second grade programs.

## Note from Internet Publisher: Donald L. Potter

December 6, 2013

As the Reading and Cursive Handwriting Specialist at the Odessa Christian School in Odessa, Texas, it is my responsibility and privilege to work with all the teachers to make sure that every student is able to be successful with the A Beka Book elementary curriculum. This requires that I understand completely the phonics, reading, and cursive handwriting program. I have published the results of my thorough analysis of the first-grade program on my website, [www.donpotter.net](http://www.donpotter.net). The first-grade program is so incredibly complete that it can be used to teach anyone of any age how to read on his or her age level. I have found it to be a marvelously effective tool for teaching reading to students of all ages in my private tutoring practice.

Perhaps one of the most challenging parts of the program for parents and new teachers, who lack a strong foundation in phonics, is how to correctly pronounce all the basic sounds. Fortunately, A Beka Book publishes an inexpensive excellent CD, which demonstrates all the sounds. I highly recommend that every parent and teacher have a copy of the CD to assist them in mastering the pronunciation of the basic sounds.

For the students at my school, I have made instructional recordings of the entire contents of the *Handbook for Reading* and the first four A Beka Readers: *Fun with Pets*, *Tiptoes*, *Stepping Stones*, and *Secrets and Surprises*. I use these recordings with students who find it difficult to keep up with the rest of their reading group. There are three different plans for the first-grade program, each proceeding at a different pace to meet the needs of the each student. The slowest paced group only reads these five core books, which introduce **all** the phonics rules and **all** 132 Special Sounds.

This document is an **extra aid** to help the parents and teacher at my school to teach the basic sounds correctly. It is accompanied by an mp3 recording that can be downloaded for free from my website, [www.donpotter.net](http://www.donpotter.net). The mp3 will follow exactly the contents of this document. The audio file will be found on the *Odessa Christian School* page of my website.

[http://donpotter.net/audio\\_files/a\\_beka\\_basicsounds.html](http://donpotter.net/audio_files/a_beka_basicsounds.html)

May the Lord bless everyone teaching reading with the marvelous A Beka Book phonics-first reading program.

Last updated on April March 25, 2016.

*Sincerely,*

*Donald L. Potter*