

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Layers of Language:
The Anglo-Saxon Layer of Language, Letter-sound Correspondences

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Handout 3

Consonants

Single letter:

b /b/ boy	p /p/ pin
c /k/ cat	qu /kw/ queen (q is always followed by u)
/s/ city (before e, i, y)	r /r/ rat
d /d/ dog	s /s/ sun
f /f/ fin	/z/ rose
g /g/ gun	t /t/ top
/j/ ginger (before e, i, y)	v /v/ van
h /h/ hat	w /w/ win
j /j/ jam	x /ks/ box
k /k/ kite	/z/ xylophone
l /l/ lamp	y /y/ yellow
m /m/ man	z /z/ zebra
n /n/ nut	

Consonant Blends:

Initial blends:

s blends: sc – scar, sk – skate, sl – slide, sm – smile, sn – snake,
sp – spin, st – state, sw – swim

l blends: bl – black, cl – click, fl – flower, gl – glum, sl – slide

r blends: br – bride, cr – crab, dr – drive, fr – freeze, gr – green, pr – print, tr – trade
tw – twin

3-letter blends: scr – scrap, spl – split, spr – sprain, str – strain

Final blends:

-nd – stand	-lk – milk	-ft – left	-st – fist
-mp – stamp	-lf – self	-lp – help	-ld – mild
-ct – fact (the c is not clearly pronounced)			

Consonant Digraphs:

ch – church th – that th – thin sh – ship wh – whale

-ck (sick), wr (write), kn (knock), gn (gnash) are usually considered consonant digraphs. -tch and -dge are technically *trigraphs*.

Additional Consonant Patterns:

war - warm
wor - world
mb - thumb
ind - mind, ild - child, old - cold, ost - most

Vowels:

Single letter:

Short vowels:

a – at, apple
e – end, elephant
i – it, igloo
o – ox, octopus
u – up, umbrella
y – gym, gypsy (Usually found in Greek-based words)

NOTE: Short vowels are usually taught in the following sequence to eliminate auditory discrimination problems: a, i, u, o, e.

Long vowels:

a – ate, shaape, baaby
e – even, Peete, reemote
i – ice, liike, piilot
o – oboe, voote, hoobo
u – uke, muute, cuupid
y – Long i as in cry and cycle; long e as in baby

NOTE: Long vowel **markers** include::

Vowel consonant *e* as in snake makes the vowel long
Vowel at the end of a syllable (open syllable) will be long

-r controlled vowels:

ar – scar *or* – corn *er* – fern, greener *ir* – bird *ur* – church

ear – earth, learn

The letter *l* also may change a vowel sound as in *al* – halt and

all – small

Vowel digraphs:

<i>ai</i> –pail(often followed by l or n)	<i>ay</i> – spray
<i>ee</i> – green	<i>ea</i> – teach
<i>oa</i> – boat	
<i>oy</i> – boy	<i>oi</i> – coil
<i>aw</i> – lawn	<i>au</i> – author
<i>ew</i> – few, crew	<i>eu</i> – feud
<i>ue</i> – cue, clue	<i>ui</i> – fruit

NOTE: The following vowel digraphs have two common sounds:

ou – sound

ou – boulder (much less common)

oo – moon

oo - cook

ea – teach

ea – head

ie – tie

ie – shield

ei – receive

ei – vein (less common)

Additional Vowel Patterns:

igh – sight *eigh* – freight *augh* – daughter *ough* - thought