

Phoneme Pronunciation Guide



This is a guide to pronouncing the 44 sounds of the English language correctly, with the addition of 'ing' from the ACET Phonics Scheme. It is vital in Phonics that children use 'pure' sounds. This means they say each sound in the shortest possible way without adding 'uh' at the end. For example, 'm' is pronounced 'mm' not 'muh'. This is an essential skill when children are blending sounds together to read words.

Please note -

The way children say some of these sounds may differ slightly according to regional accent.

Sound	Pronunciation Example
s / ss	'sss' as in 'sun' / 'sss' as in 'hiss'
a	'a' as in 'apple'
t	't' as in 'tap' (a short sound)
p	'p' as in 'pet' (a soft, blowing sound)
i	'i' as in 'insect'
n	'nnn' as in 'nose'
m	'mmm' as in 'mouse'
d	'd' as in 'dog' (a short sound)
o	'o' as in 'off'
g	'g' as in 'goat' (a short, throaty sound)
l / ll	'ull' as in lock' / 'ull' as in pull
c	'c' as in 'cat' (a short sound, just c not 'curly kuh')
k	'k' as in 'kit' (a short sound, just k not 'kicking kuh')
ck	'ck' as in 'duck' (pronounced in the same as 'c' and 'k')
e	'e' as in 'egg'
u	'u' as in 'umbrella'
r	'rrr' as in 'rug' (a growling sound)
h	'h' as in 'hat' (a short, breathy sound)
b	'b' as in 'bun'
f / ff	'fff' as in 'fan' / 'fff' as in huff
j	'j' as in 'jam' (a short sound)
v	'vvv' as in 'van'
w	'w' as in 'win' (a whisper sound)
x	'ks' as in 'fox'



Sound	Pronunciation Example
y	'y' as in 'yes'
z / zz	'zzz' as in 'zip' / 'zzz' as in 'buzz'
qu	'kwuh' as in 'queen'
ch	'ch' as in 'chip'
sh	'shhh' as in 'shop'
ng	ng 'nng' as in 'song'
ing	'ing' as in 'ring' and 'looking'
th	'thhh' as in 'teeth' / 'th' as in 'this'
ai	'ay' as in 'train'
ee	'ee' as in 'bee'
igh	igh 'eye' as in 'night'
oa	'oh' as in 'boat'
oo	'ooo' as in 'food' (can also be 'u' as in 'book')
ar	'ah' as in 'park'
er/ ur/ ir	'er' as in 'herb' 'turn' 'bird'
or	'or' as in 'fork'
ow	'ow' as in 'cow'
oi	'oy' as in 'coin'
ear	'ear' as in 'hear'
air	'air' as in 'hair'
ure	'your' as in 'pure'



As children progress through phases 3 to 5, they will learn alternative ways of reading and writing these sounds. However, the 44 spoken sounds will remain the same.

ACET Phonics Progress Chart

	Sub-Phase	Sounds	Tricky Words	High Frequency Words
Reception/FS2	Phase 2a	s a t p i n m d o g l	I the no	a as is it an and in
	Phase 2b	c k c k e u r h b f f l l s s	go to into	at on up am of if
	2b Part 2	Practise all previously taught sounds Focus on segmenting and blending	he she we me be my by was they all her are you	can had mum dad get got put but his him big back off not
	Phase 3a	j v w x y z z z q u c h s h n g i n g	Practise all previously taught tricky words	pull full will has push
	Phase 3b	th		that this
	Phase 3c	ai ee igh oa oo ar er ur ir		see with then too them your
	Phase 3d	or ow oi ear air ure	said have so do like little some come were there out	down for now today day
	Phase 4a	Initial Blends - st tr dr gr cr br fr bl fl gl pl cl sp sm shr str thr tw sk sc	Mr Mrs once love one	eyes it's I'm ask
	Phase 4b	Final Blends - nd mp nt nk ft sk lt lp nch st lk lf wh	who what where when why	from just went help find
Phase 4c	Introduce CCVCC and recap phase 4.	Recap all previously taught tricky words	Recap all previously taught HFW.	
Y1	Phase 5a	a (apron), e (evil), i (find), o (robot) u (uniform)	oh	very
	Phase 5b	a-e (make) e-e (theme) i-e (time) o-e (home) u-e (flute/huge) y (baby), y (fly), c (decent), g (ginger)	people their	made here make
	Phase 5c	ay (play), ea (beach), ey (key) oe (toe) ow (low) ie (tie) oy (boy) ou (loud) ea (bread)	called looked asked could would should	house don't old children saw water
	Phase 5d	au (Paul) aw (draw) ue (blue) ew (new) ph s (/zh/leisure, visual, casual, vision)	Recap all previously taught tricky words	says our
	Phase 5e	ie (field) a (wand) ch (chef) ch (school) ou (could) ou (shoulder) ou (soup)		friend school Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday
	Phase 5f	mb kn gn wr le c k ck qu ch s c se z se v ve sh ch tion ssion ssure sion sure cion cious cial ai ay a-e eigh ey ei a ee ea e-e ie y ye eo e igh y ie i-e i oa ow oe o-e o oo ew ue ui ou u u-e u oo ou o or aw au al our ore ur ir er ear ow ou oi oy ear ere eer air are ear r our re ure er		didn't can't I'll couldn't I've there's he's we're zero (one is already taught as a TW) two three four five six seven eight nine ten eleven twelve thirteen fourteen fifteen sixteen seventeen eighteen nineteen twenty January February March April May June July August September October November December