Distinguish long from short vowel sounds in spoken single-syllable words.

Phonics and Word Recognition

Phonics Flash Card Activity

- Long and short vowel cards (pp. 2–11)
- Pocket chart
- Bag or small box

This activity teaches students to distinguish short and long vowels.

1. Print out the cards and cut them apart.
2. Select one group of cards (for example, Short a and Long a). Put the appropriate short- or long-vowel headings (in this case, Short a and Long a) at the top of the pocket chart. Put all the short and long a cards in a bag or small box.
3. Have a student draw a card out of the bag or box. The student then places the card in a pocket under the correct heading.

Teacher: Who can tell us what a vowel is?

Did you know some vowels are short and some are long?

Words like cat, ant, and apple all have a short a.

Here are some words with long vowels: cake, rain, wave, and play.

(Note: Repeat this kind of introduction for each of the short vowel/long vowel pairings.)
Short a

- cat
- bat
- cap
- rat
- map
- hand
- sad
- ant
Short e

- egg
- hen
- nest
- legs
- ten
- bed
- red
- jet
Long e

- sea
- tree
- green
- bean
- eat
- seed
- bee
- sheep
Short i

ripping
thinnest
milk

lips
pig
wing

kick
six
Long i

- mice
- ice
- five
- rice
- fire
- bite
- bike
- kite
Short o

- Fox
- Hot
- Clock
- Hop
- Hog
- Sock
- Rock
- Block
Long o

boat
coat
toes

snow
rose
cone

toad
nose
Short u

drum

bus

bug

sun

gum

mug

run

tub
Long u

- flute
- blue
- ruler
- juice
- tube
- tune
- cube
- fruit