

Vocabulary Building Activity

Review important letter sounds and reading rules from Grade 4 Vocabulary

1 Consonant Rule – 2 Consonant Rule – short vowels – long vowels – [View rule online](#)

1 Consonant Rule

1. **medium**
2. **beyond**
3. **remain**
4. **previous**
5. **identical**

2 Consonant Rule

6. **distance**
7. **effort**
8. **explanation**
9. **accurate**
10. **opportunity**

1 Consonant Rule: When one consonant follows a vowel, the vowel is often long.

2 Consonant Rule: When two consonants follow a vowel, the vowel is usually short.

Note: These rules are not 100% true, however, they do occur more than 75% of the time for the first vowel sound in a word, and therefore, can help greatly with successful decoding and spelling.

SKILL 1 – Review Long and Short Vowels (answers not from above list)

1. Write one word as an example of each long vowel sound (a-e-i-o-u). Words must contain 4 letters:

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
long a	long e	long i	long o	long u

2. Write one word as an example of each short vowel sound (a-e-i-o-u). Words must contain 3 letters:

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
short a	short e	short i	short o	short u

SKILL 2 – Identify Vowel Sounds

3. Which word begins with a long i vowel sound in the 1 Consonant Rule list? _____
4. Which word has a long e for its first vowel sound and means to “stay put” ? _____
5. Which word has a long e sound and means “in the middle of low and high” ? _____
6. Which word has a long e sound because it is followed by the single “v” consonant? _____
7. Which word has a long e sound and means “something that is past something else”? _____
8. Which word begins with a short o sound because it is followed by two letter p’s ? _____
9. Which word begins with a short e sound because it is followed by consonants “xp” ? _____
10. If a word begins with “accu” – would the “a” most likely have a long or short sound? _____
11. If a word begins with “rema” – would the “e” most likely have a long or short sound? _____
12. If a word begins with “opp” – would the “o” most likely have a long or short sound? _____
13. If a word begins with “previ” – would the “e” most likely have a long or short sound? _____
14. Circle your fastest time for saying the 10 list words: 4 sec - 5 sec – 6 sec – 7 sec – 8 sec – 9 sec – 10 sec

SKILL 3 – Sentence Writing

Use a separate sheet of paper and put each list word into a sentence containing at least 7 words.

Vocabulary Building Activities

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Final-e Rule – Long sounds – ai ee ea ie oa – To hear these sounds online – [click here](#)

Final-e Rule

1. gale
2. value
3. rage
4. volume
5. compete

Sounds of ai-ee-ea-ie-oa

6. brain
7. proceed
8. increase
9. brief
10. coast

Final-e Rule: When a word ends in letter “e” – the vowel before the e is usually long.

Sounds of ai – ee – ea - ie – oa : These letter groups usually have the long vowel sound made by their first letter. However “ea” and “ie” are exceptions: “ea” makes the long “e” sound half the time and makes the short “e” sound half the time. “ie” makes the sound of long “i” in small 3 or 4 letter words (tie – lied) and makes the sound of long “e” in larger words of usually 5 or more letters.

SKILL 1 – Identify Vowel Sounds – Final-e Rule Words

1. Which word has the long “a” sound and means “a strong wind of about 50 mph”? _____
2. If you remove the final-e in this word it means a small piece of cloth for cleaning? _____
3. Does the “e” at the end of the words in the final-e rule have a silent or long-e sound? _____
4. These two words have a long “u” sound before the final-e: _____
5. Which word from the list is visually similar to the word “complete”: _____

SKILL 2 – Identify Vowel Sounds – ai – ee – ea – ie - oa

6. Which word from the list makes a long “e” sound from the letters “ie” ? _____
7. What list word has a long “e” in the last syllable and means "to keep going" ? _____
8. What two letters can make both a long “e” and short “e” sound? _____
9. Which two letters usually make a long “a” sound? _____
10. What two letters usually make a long “o” sound? _____

SKILL 3 – Vowel Sound Thinking (words not from list above)

11. Write another word, not in the list, that has a long “a” sound spelled by “ai”: _____
12. What two letters often make both a long “i” and long “e” sound? _____
13. Give two words where “ea” has a long “e” and short “e” sound? _____
14. What three groups of letters can make the long “e” sound? _____
16. Circle your fastest time for saying the list words? 4 sec - 5 sec – 6 sec – 7 sec – 8 sec – 9 sec – 10 sec

SKILL 3 – Sentence Writing

Use a separate sheet of paper and put each list word into a sentence containing at least 7 words.

Vocabulary Building Activities

Review important letter sounds and reading rules from Grade 4 Vocabulary

Soft-C Rule Soft-G Rule R-Controlled Vowels – ar – er – ir – ur – or – [Hear sounds online](#)

Soft C Rule – Soft G Rule

1. recently
2. citizen
3. generous
4. suggest
5. gigantic

R-Controlled Vowels – ar-er-ir-ur-or

6. particle
7. observe
8. firm
9. hurricane
10. horizon

Soft C Rule: Letter C makes the sound of “S” when it is followed by letter “e” or letter “i”

Soft G Rule: Letter G makes the sound of “J” when it is followed by letter “e” or letter “i”

R-Controlled Vowels – “er ir ur” make the same sound “rrrr” – “ar” makes the same sound as the name of letter “r” (as in car) – “or” makes the same sound as heard in the word “or” (as in more)

SKILL 1 – Soft C Rule – Soft G Rule

1. “C” makes the sound of what letter when it is followed by letter “e” or letter “i” ? _____
2. “C” makes the sound of what letter when it is followed by letter “a” – “o” – “u” ? _____
3. “G” makes the sound of what letter when it is followed by letter “e” or letter “i” ? _____
4. What word contains letter “g” and has both the hard and soft sound? _____
5. Which word contains an example of the soft-c rule and means “not long ago” ? _____

SKILL 2 – Identify Vowel Sounds – ar – er – ir – ur – or

6. What three groups of letters make the same sound (as in were)? _____
7. What r-controlled letters make the sound of the name of a single letter of the alphabet? _____
8. Which list word contains two letters that rhyme with “more” ? _____
9. Which list word means the same as “not soft” ? _____
10. Which list word means “to watch” ? _____

SKILL 3 – Vowel Sound Thinking (words not from list above)

11. When a word ends in letters “ar” and “or” its sound changes to be like what letters? _____
12. Try to think of a word that contains both “ar” and “er”: _____
13. What word that contains “ur” means a cloth that covers a window: _____
14. What word begins with letters “cer” and means “being sure” about something: _____
15. Is the word you chose for number 14 above a “soft-c rule” word? _____
16. How fast can you say all 10 list words? 4 sec – 5 sec – 6 sec – 7 sec – 8 sec – 9 sec – 10 sec

SKILL 4 – Put each of the list words into a sentence containing at least 7 words.

Vocabulary Building Activity

Review important letter sounds and reading rules from Grade 4 Vocabulary

tion – ture – Hear these sounds online – [click here](#)

tion

1. emotion
2. solution
3. duration
4. combination
5. stationary

ture

6. nature
7. future
8. creature
9. pasture
10. adventure

tion: The letters “tion” make the sound of the letters “shun,” as in the word “action”

ture : The letters “ture” make the sound of letters “chur” and sometimes “shur”

SKILL 1 – Sounds and Vocabulary - tion

1. Does the letter “t” make its usual “tuh” sound when in “tion” ? _____
2. Circle which sound you hear at the beginning of “tion”? th – ch – sh
3. Which “tion” word means “how long something lasts” ? _____
4. Which “tion” word means “the answer to a problem” ? _____
5. Which “tion word means “staying still” – “not moving” ? _____
6. Circle which vowel sound you hear in the middle of “tion” ? short a – short e - short u

SKILL 2 – Sounds and Vocabulary – ture

7. Does the letter “t” make” its usual “tuh” sound when in “ture” ? _____
8. Circle which sound you hear at the beginning of “ture” ? th - ch - sh
9. Which “ture” word means “after the present”: _____
10. Which “ture” word means “a grassy area where animals often graze” ? _____
11. Which “ture” word means “having to do with plants, animals – not man-made” ? _____
12. Circle the two letters that make the same sound as the vowel sound in “ture” ? ar - or - ir

SKILL 3 – Vowel Sound Thinking (words not from list above)

13. Write 3 other “tion” words not on the list above: _____
14. Write 3 other “ture” words not on the list above: _____
15. Give the phonetic spelling of “tion” and “ture” in these two spaces: _____
16. How fast can you say all 10 list words? 4 sec – 5 sec – 6 sec – 7 sec – 8 sec – 9 sec – 10 sec

SKILL 4 – Sentence Writing

Use a separate sheet of paper and put each list word into a sentence containing at least 7 words.

Vocabulary Building Activity

Review important letter sounds from Grade 4 Vocabulary

ou – oo – oi – au – aw – ow – To hear these sounds online – [click here](#)

ou – oo – oi - oy

1. outstanding
2. proof
3. understood
4. moisture
5. annoy

au – aw - ow

6. author
7. auditorium
8. awkward
9. meadow
10. coward

ou oo oi oy: “ou” makes the sound as in “ouch” – “oo” makes 2 sounds as in food and book. “oi” and “oy” make the same sound as in “oil” and “boy.”

au – aw - ow: “au” and “aw” typically make the short “o” sound as in “octopus.” Examples of “au” and “aw” include – audio – auction – awful – awning. “Ow” makes two sounds, each about 50% of the time. It can make the sound of long “o” - as in “own” and can make the sound of “ou” like in the word “cow.”

SKILL 1 – Sounds and Vocabulary – ou – oo – oi - oy

1. Which two letters make the same sound as what you say if someone pinches you? _____
2. Which two letters make the same sound as the long “u” in rude? _____
3. Which two letters make the same sound as “oy” ? _____
4. Which list word has something to do with water ? _____
5. Which list word describes someone who is bothering someone else? _____

SKILL 2 – Sounds and Vocabulary – aw – au - ow

6. What short vowel sound is the same sound as made by “aw” and “au” ? _____
7. About 50% of the time, “ow” makes the sound of which long vowel? _____
8. About 50% of the time, “ow” makes the sound of what other two letters? _____
9. “Oi” makes the same sound of what other two letters? _____
10. Which list word means “the person who writes a book” ? _____

SKILL 3 – Vowel Sound Thinking (words not from list above)

11. Write 2 other words in which “ou” makes same sound as in “out”: _____
12. Write two words in which “oo” makes a sound like in “food” : _____
13. Write two words in which “oo” makes a sound like in “book” : _____
14. How fast can you say all 10 list words? 4 sec – 5 sec – 6 sec – 7 sec – 8 sec – 9 sec – 10 sec

SKILL 4 – Sentence Writing

15. Use a separate sheet of paper and put each list word into a sentence containing at least 7 words.