Common Phonics Rules and Sound Combinations

Phonics teaches kids to break words into small “chunks” so that even the biggest words are easy to read! Here are some common chunks, sounds, and spelling patterns.

Frequently Used Coding Marks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Macron</th>
<th>Breve</th>
<th>Schwa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Used for open vowels or when vowels say their name ā, ē, ī, ō, ū</td>
<td>Used for short vowels. Short vowels are followed by a consonant. ā, ē, ī, ō, ū</td>
<td>Looks like an upside down e (a) when a vowel other than u makes the /u/ sound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example: nō, gō, hī</td>
<td>Example: cāt, mōp, sīt, pēt, cūp</td>
<td>Example: banana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sneaky “e” words/silent “e”: The final “e” makes the vowel say it’s own name.
The final “e” is silent or sneaky (VCe).
Examples: cāke, concrēte, dīme, hōse, cūbe

The e, i, or y and Final /k/ Spelling Rules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C says /s/ when it’s before an e,i and y</th>
<th>Soft ţ says /j/ when it’s before an e,i and y (anything else is spelled with letter j)</th>
<th>“K” comes before e, i or y, anything else gets a “c”</th>
<th>Spelling with final /k/ sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examples of soft c:</td>
<td>Examples of soft g:</td>
<td>Examples of spelling with “k” or “c”:</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Çircle</td>
<td>• Giraffe</td>
<td>• sky</td>
<td><strong>Digraph ck</strong> - after a short vowel (e.g. back)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• cycle</td>
<td>• Gesture</td>
<td>• kit</td>
<td><strong>Final k</strong> - after a consonant or vowel digraph (e.g. look, mask)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Jar</td>
<td>• kettle</td>
<td><strong>Final ke</strong> - after a long vowel (e.g., bake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• jump</td>
<td>• cat</td>
<td><strong>Final c</strong> - multisyllabic word (e.g., picnic, majestic)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Misc spelling rules:
Words don’t end in “v” they end in “ve” (e.g. have, love, give).
Words don’t end in “i” they end in “y” (e.g. sky, fly)
Words don’t end in “o” they end in “ow” (except in words such as no, go, etc.).

Digraphs: A digraph is two letters that come together to make one sound.
Consonant digraphs: ck, th, sh, ng, ch …and many more!
Vowel digraphs: ai, ea, ew, au, ea, ey, aw, ea, ie, ow, ay ei, ie, ue, ei, oa, oo, ee.
Ghost letter digraphs: kn, gn, wr (the first letter doesn’t make a sound)
**Trigraphs:** A trigraph is three letters that come together to make one sound.

Trigraphs: dge, igh, tch

- **Trigraph tch** comes after a short vowel (e.g. patch).
- **Digraph ch** comes after a consonant (e.g. punch)
- **Trigraph dge:** comes after a short vowel (e.g., bridge) and **ge** comes after a long vowel or a consonant (e.g. cage).

**Final-Stable-Syllables:**

- **Final**...at the end of a word. **Stable**...always the same. **Syllable**... it’s own syllable.

Final stable syllables include: ble, fle, cle, kle, tle, zle, ple, dle, gle, tion

- Tāble: If a final-stable-syllable comes after an open syllable, the vowel will say the long vowel sound.
- Sādle: If a final-stable-syllable comes after a closed syllable, the vowel will say the short vowel sound.

**Dropping rule:** If a “sneaky e” comes in front of a vowel suffix, you drop the “sneaky e”. If a “sneaky e” comes in front of a consonant suffix you leave it!

- make + ing = making
- glue + ed = glued
- ice + y = icy

**Doubling rule:** If a root word ends in a vowel-consonant (VC) pattern and comes in front of a vowel suffix, double the consonant.

- sit + ing = sitting
- shop + ed = shopped
- run + y = runny

**Wild Colt rule:** A vowel could say its name when “i” or “o” is followed by two consonants.

- cōld
- āld
- find
- χīld
- wind
-身亡

**FLOSS rule:**

A one syllable word, with a short vowel sound, and ends in “f”, “l”, “s”, double the “f”, “l”, “s”.

- moss
- sniff
- kiss
- stuff
- bill
- cliff
- fill
- glass

**Combinations:** Two letters that come together to make an unexpected sound.

- ar, ir, qu, wh, er, or, ur

**Diphthongs:** Two letters that come together so fast they seem to make one sound...but they really make two vowel sounds. Say the sound and pay attention to how your mouth moves with the two vowel sounds.

- oi, ou, ow, oy

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**Additional Phonics Resources**

- On youtube search “Sarah Smith Phonics Helps”- Great resource!
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPrfXw3UUqSTOVcoJR19k2g9Ljwx3V2eW
  this is the sight word section of Sarah Smith’s help!
- You’ll find lots of fun reading help for kids at the following web address:
  http://www.carlscorner.us.com/