

# Vowel Sounds

## Activity Kit

Learning vowel sounds is a basic phonics skill that is essential for reading success. The Vowel Sounds Activity Kit is a fun way for children to practice identifying and distinguishing vowel sounds. The kit includes both long and short vowel sounds. Beginners practice identifying and matching initial vowel sounds, while more advanced students learn to identify and match medial vowel sounds. The kit is easy to set up, and the self-correcting cards allow children to use the kit independently at a language center or in small groups.

### Your Kit Includes

- Sturdy nylon pocket wall chart with 4 clear pockets and storage pouch
- 10 initial vowel sounds starter strips (green borders)
- 30 initial vowel sounds picture cards (green borders)
- 10 medial vowel sounds starter strips (blue borders)
- 30 medial vowel sounds picture cards (blue borders)
- Title card

*Your initial vowel sounds starter strips and picture cards correspond as shown in the chart below.*

Vowel Sound	Starter Strip	Picture Cards		
short a	apple	ax	ant	alligator
long a	angel	ape	acorn	apron
short e	elephant	egg	elbow	envelope
long e	eleven	easel	ear	eagle
short i	igloo	iguana	insect	invitation
long i	iron	ivy	ice cube	island
short o	octopus	otter	ostrich	ox
long o	oval	old	ocean	overalls
short u	umbrella	underwear	umpire	upside down
long u	unicycle	United States	unicorn	uniform

Your medial vowel sounds starter strips and picture cards correspond as shown in the chart below.

Vowel Sound	Starter Strip	Picture Cards		
short a	cat	bat	crab	flag
long a	grape	cake	whale	vase
short e	dress	bed	hen	jet
long e	feet	jeep	green	deer
short i	pig	milk	quilt	six
long i	kite	pie	tire	night
short o	doll	block	dog	mop
long o	rope	globe	hose	soap
short u	duck	bug	nut	sun
long u	fruit	glue	blue	suit

## Putting It All Together

You will find a packet of cards in your kit that contains starter strips and picture cards. The starter strips (a picture followed by 3 blank spaces) are ready to use. The picture cards just need to be cut along the dotted lines. (Be careful not to cut your strips by mistake.) We’ve also included blank cards that you can use to add your own words or pictures. All of the cards can be stored in the storage pouch at the bottom of the chart. Place the title card in the top pocket of the chart.

## Introducing the Kit

Introduce the kit to the class by allowing students to handle and examine the picture cards. You might want to start off with just the initial vowel sounds cards, then introduce the medial vowel sounds cards when students have mastered the first set. When students have had enough time to explore the cards on their own, ask them to name as many as they can. This will help students gain confidence with the cards and allow them to learn the names of any pictures they don’t already know.

You may occasionally need to prompt students with the intended words. For example, students may identify the *iguana* as a lizard. In this case, tell them that it’s a special kind of lizard that starts with /i/. Ask if anyone knows the name for it, then give them the answer if needed.

The Vowel Sounds Activity Kit has been designed so that no reading is necessary. Instead, children can focus on the vowel sounds they hear as they identify the pictures.

# Getting Started

Once students are familiar with the picture cards, introduce them to the rest of the kit by presenting them with a starter strip. Start with an initial vowel sound that your students are already familiar with, like the short /a/ sound.

- Have children identify the image on the *apple* starter strip. Help them sound out the word, emphasizing the initial vowel sound. Then place the strip in the top pocket of the chart.
- Select 5-6 initial vowel sounds picture cards (including *ax*, *ant* & *alligator*).
- Have children identify each picture.
- Ask them to listen for words that begin with the same sound as *apple*.
- Have children place cards with the same sound as *apple* on the blank spaces on the starter strip.
- The correct cards will have a matching picture on the back, so children can check their work by turning them over.

Repeat this activity with the rest of the initial vowel sounds starter strips. When students are comfortable with the activity, you may want to place the kit in an independent center and encourage children to try it on their own. When students have mastered identifying and matching initial vowel sounds, repeat this activity using the medial vowel sounds strips.

## Extension Activities

We suggest that you introduce these activities using initial vowel sounds, then move on to medial vowel sounds when students are ready.

### Lotto

Copy and enlarge the Phonics Lotto reproducible on the last page of this guide onto heavy paper. Then make several copies of the blackline illustrations on the backs of either the initial vowel sounds or medial vowel sounds picture cards. Randomly paste the pictures onto the Phonics Lotto squares to make a set of lotto game boards. Then, separate the green and blue picture cards to play with either initial or medial vowel sounds. Give each child a game board and place the picture cards in a bag. Children should take turns pulling picture cards from the bag and placing them on their game boards if they have a matching vowel sound.

### Vowel Sounds Word Bank

Place either the initial or medial vowel sounds picture cards in a pile and have children take turns choosing a card. Ask each child to say the word out loud and to think of another word that has the same vowel sound. When a child says a matching word, she gets to keep the card. If a child cannot think of a word, ask the rest of the class to help. If no one can think of a word, the card goes back into the pile. Record all of the matching vowel sounds pairs on the chalkboard or a piece of chart paper to create a "Vowel Sounds Word Bank."

**Class Collage**

Write a starter word on a piece of posterboard, then draw or paste on a corresponding picture. Encourage children to write or draw words that have the same vowel sound as the starter word. When children have thought of as many words as they can, paste the words and pictures on the posterboard and display the collage in the classroom.

**Vowel Sounds Class Book**

Copy the blackline illustrations on the back of the picture cards onto heavy paper to make pages for a class book. Ask children to name words that have the same vowel sound as each picture and write them on the page. As an alternative, have children work cooperatively to illustrate the pages with matching words. The pages can then be bound into a class book for everyone to enjoy.

**Word Match**

When children are ready to add text, try this fun matching activity. Using a different color to highlight the vowels, write the word for each picture on a blank card. Place a set of matching vowel sounds picture cards in the pocket chart, then help children place the correct word next to each picture. Help children discover that some vowel sounds are spelled alike (like *jeep* and *green*) and some are spelled differently (like *blue* and *suit*).

**Phonics Lotto**


*Copy and enlarge for the lotto activity on page 3.*