Reading becomes fun and creative with our unique Short Vowels Magnet Set! The colorful picture and word magnets introduce students to five short vowel sounds (short a, short e, short i, short o, and short u). As students sort, group, match, and compare the magnets, they get to know each word and vowel sound—improving reading and spelling skills as they go. You can use these flexible word and picture magnets with the whole class, in small groups, or at independent centers for a fun, hands-on alternative to worksheet phonics lessons.

What’s Included
- 40 word magnets
- 40 picture magnets
- 5 header magnets
- Blank magnets to create your own words and pictures
- Reusable pouch

⚠️ WARNING:
This product contains a small magnet(s). Swallowed magnets can stick together across intestines causing serious injury. Seek immediate medical attention if magnet(s) are swallowed or inhaled.

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RR483
Ages 6+
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⚠️ WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD—Small parts. Not for children under 3 yrs.
Your Short Vowels Magnet Set has eight words and pictures for each short vowel sound. We've also included five header magnets to encourage various sorting activities. The short vowels in each word are color-coded by sound, as shown below.

- short a = red  
- short e = orange  
- short o = blue  
- short i = green  
- short u = pink

For example, the “i” in ship is green, and the “u” in umbrella is pink. The color-coding helps students understand which letter makes the short vowel sound. Each word is clearly illustrated with a matching picture magnet.

Getting Started
To use your set, simply separate the individual magnets. We've provided several blank magnets so that you can add your own words and pictures to the set. If you like, you can use a dry-erase or wet-erase marker to write on the magnets, then simply wipe them clean to create new words or pictures. Regular pens or markers will make permanent marks that cannot be removed. When you have finished using the set, you can store the magnets in the reusable pouch.

On the following pages, we've included a variety of activities designed to familiarize students with the words and pictures in the set and to help them learn the short vowel sounds. While working through the activities, be sure to allow ample opportunities for students to explain their thinking.

Introductory Activities
Before you begin any formal instruction, invite students to explore the magnets on their own. As they explore, help them identify the pictures and read the words in the set.

Initial Word Sorts
To help students get acquainted with the words and pictures in this set, ask them to do a specific picture or word sort. You might suggest that they sort for beginning or ending sounds, animals, objects, word size, etc. Once students have tried this a few times, see if they can make up their own sorting categories.
Listen Up!
Encourage students to sort the picture magnets according to vowel sounds. Arrange the header magnets at the top of a magnetic surface or a piece of paper so students can place the picture magnets in columns beneath the appropriate short vowel sound. Ask students to say each word aloud in order to identify its vowel sound, and then place it with the other pictures that have the same sound. For example, sock, frog, and clock would all go together because they all have a “short o” sound.

When students have sorted the magnets, explain that every word has a vowel sound.

The Grand Sort
Once students have completed the above activity, ask them to find the word magnet for each picture magnet and place them together.

Games & Activities
Purple Park Apartments
Draw an apartment building with five sections on a write & wipe magnetic board or a piece of paper. Place a header magnet in each apartment. Invite students to place the corresponding word or picture magnets in each apartment.
Hiss
Draw a large snake on a write & wipe magnetic board or a piece of paper. Tell students that the snake likes pictures with certain short vowel sounds. Then choose one or two sounds such as “short a” and “short u.” Place all the picture magnets in a bag and ask students to take turns choosing magnets. If a student picks a magnet with either the “short a” or “short u” sound, she gets to put it on the snake.

Name That Category!
Choose four players and secretly assign each one a different short vowel sound. Then, place 20 randomly selected picture magnets on a magnetic surface or a piece of paper. The four players take turns selecting magnets that match their secret vowel sounds and placing them in their corner of the magnetic surface or paper. The class tries to guess each of the four secret vowel sounds. Are there any magnets the players missed?

Tic-Tac-Toe
Draw a tic-tac-toe grid on a magnetic write & wipe board or a piece of paper. Invite pairs of students each to choose a short vowel sound. For example, one student might choose “short i” while the other chooses “short u.” Players take turns finding word magnets with their short vowel sounds, saying the word aloud and placing the magnet on the board or paper in order to create tic-tac-toe with three words in a row.

Extension Activity
Word Lists
Have students use the magnets as a reference to make lists of words that have the same vowel sounds. Help children brainstorm other words to add to their lists. Hang the lists around the room where everyone can see them.