

Other 'a' & 'o' Sounds

You will be working with words again in this activity, blending the sounds of letters together to make words. You will work with several different vowel sounds made by 'a' and 'o'. The sounds are:

1. 'a' followed by 'l', 'u' or 'w' usually has an 'or' sound, as in ball, saw or caught. **Note:** in the USA this will have a sound between the 'ar' and the 'or' sound, but will be closer to the 'ar' sound.

(The exception to this is when a word ends in 'al' then the 'a' has a short sound, as in capital)

1. 'o' followed by 'y' at the end of a word (e.g. boy), or 'o' followed by 'i' in the middle of a word has the sound as in boy, or coin.
2. One 'o' next to another 'o', i.e. 'oo' has one of two sounds as in book or boot.
3. 'o' followed by 'w' has either the long 'o' sound, as in slow, or has the sound as in down.
4. The 'air' sound which can be made by 'air' as in fair, or by 'are', as in bare, or by 'ear' as in pear
5. The 'ear' sound, which can be made by 'ear', as in hear, or by 'eer', as in beer, or 'ere', as in here.

All the words will be real words, where three or four letters blend together to make one sound.

You will start with a chart of words where the words will be on lines, one after the other. Then, when you are familiar with the words, you will have to read them in time to a beat. You will then try saying the words after they are flashed 2 or 3 at a time. Then you will try saying the words faster and faster as they jump across on the screen, one at a time. Lastly several words will jump across the screen very quickly from left to right and you will say them.

Step 1. Word chart 1

Click on '**Run Activity**' at the top of this screen, then from the menu at the top of the screen:

1. Click on '**Presentation**' and click on '**Word chart**'
2. Click on '**Word list**' and click on '**Words 1**'
3. Click on '**New Chart**' in the bottom right corner of the screen

There will be a chart of words on the screen.

All of these words will have the vowel 'a' followed by 'l', 'u' or 'w', so that the 'a' has an 'or' sound. (Except in the USA where it has a sound closer to the 'ar' sound) You have to look at the first word (on the left side) and say the word. Then say the next word. Keep saying each word across the line. Your helper can change the words to a new chart when you are finished.

Your goal is to say each word, line by line without losing your place.

Step 2. Word chart 1 - With a beat

1. Click on '**Presentation**' and click on '**Word chart to a beat**'. the beat will automatically set at 1.0 second.
2. Click on '**New Chart**'

Now say each word across the rows, saying a word on every beat. Your helper can change the words to a new chart when you are finished.

Your goal is to say each word, line by line, exactly in time to the beat, without losing your place.

Step 3. Flashing words

1. Click on '**Presentation**' and click on '**Flashing words**'. The flash rate will automatically set to 0.50 seconds
2. Click on '**Number**' and click on '**2**'
3. Click on '**Start**'

Two words will be flashed at the same time. You have to tell your helper the words you saw on the screen. Then click on 'check' to show the words again.

Continue to flash the words by clicking on '**Start**' and check your answers.

Your goal is to get 8 or more out of 10 correct.

You can then try 3 words flashed at the same time.

Step 4. Fast naming

1. Click on '**Presentation**' and click on '**Fast naming**'. The flash rate will automatically start at 1.4 seconds.
2. Click on '**Start**'

Look at the left side of the screen. A list of words will be presented on the screen. The first word will change its colour from white to green. You have to say the sound of that word before it changes its colour to white again. After this, the next word will change colour. Say the sound of this word. Keep saying the sound of the words as they change colour on the screen. If you can't keep up, change the flash rate to 1.6 seconds. When you can keep up, increase the flash rate again to 1.4 seconds. If you can keep up at this speed, increase the flash rate to 1.2 seconds. As you improve keep increasing the speed to 1.0 then 0.9 seconds etc.

Your goal is to say the sound of each word at a speed of 0.9 seconds or better.

Step 5. Word Sequence

1. Click on '**Presentation**' and click on '**Word sequence**'. The flash rate will automatically set to 0.25 seconds
2. Click on '**Number**' and click on '**2**'
3. Click on '**Start**'

Look at the left side of the centre box on the screen. A word will come on the screen then disappear. After this, another word will come on the screen next to where the first word appeared. After both words have appeared on the screen, one after the other, say the 2 words in the same order in which they were on the screen.

Then click on '**check**' to show the 2 words again. Click on '**start**' again for the next 2 words.

Your goal is to say the two words so you get at least 8 or more out of 10 correct.

Then you can try 3 words flashed in a row by changing the 'number' to 3.

Your goal is again to get 8 or more correct out of 10.

Step 6. Words 2

1. Click on '**Word list**' and click on '**Words 2**'.

All the words will be words with

1. **'o' followed by 'y' at the end of a word (e.g. boy), or 'o' followed by 'i' in the middle of a word has the sound as in boy, or coin.**

Now you have to go through all the 5 steps above for the new words.

The 5 steps and their goals will be:

1. **Word chart** - read each word across the lines without losing your place.
2. **Word chart to a beat** - read each word in time to the beat. (change 'presentation' to 'words to a beat')
3. **Flashing words** - say 2 then 3 words after they are flashed at the same time.(change 'presentation' to 'flashing words')
4. **Fast naming** - call the words one after the other at a speed of 0.9 seconds or better.(change 'presentation' to 'fast naming')
5. **Word sequence** - say 2 then 3 words after they flash in a sequence.(change 'presentation' to 'word sequence')

Step 7. Words 3

Click on '**Word list**' and click on '**Words 3**'. Each word now has:

1. **One 'o' next to another 'o', ie 'oo' has one of two sounds as in book or boot.**

Go through the 5 steps again where you work through **charts, charts to a beat, flashing words, fast naming and word sequence. Your goals are the same.**

Step 8. Words 4

Change to '**Words 4**' from the word list at the top. Each word now has:

1. **'o' followed by 'w' where 'o' has either the long 'o' sound, as in slow, or has the sound as in down.**

Progress through the 5 steps, **chart, chart with the beat, flashing words, fast naming and word sequence. Your goals are the same as before.**

Step 9. Words 5

Change to '**Words 5**' from the word list at the top. Each word now has:

1. **the 'air' sound which can be made by 'air' as in fair, or by 'are', as in bare or by 'ear', as in pear.**
2. **the 'ear' sound, which can be made by 'ear', as in hear, or by 'eer, as in beer, or 'ere', as in here.**

Work your way through the 5 steps, **chart, chart with the beat, flashing words, fast naming and word sequence. Your goals are the same as before.**

Step 10. Everything

Change to '**Everything**' from the word list at the top of the screen. Now the words will be a mix of all the words you have worked through in steps 1 to 9 above.

You can test yourself using the chart to a beat, flashing 2 or 3 of the words at the same time, fast naming and word sequence. Your goals are the same.