

Practice guide

Start here**Short vowels and small stories**

Written CVC patterns, word families and connected reading

Name: _____

Date: _____

Learners revisiting early English reading, with an adult available to help

Five to seven short sessions of about 10 minutes

Original short-vowel practice and small stories for learners who need another look at early English word patterns. Suggested grades are flexible. Written answers show spelling-pattern and text understanding; they do not assess listening, oral fluency or a learning difficulty.

What you will practise

1. Notice the middle vowel letter in familiar CVC words.
2. Change one letter to build another real word.
3. Recognise common written word families and their rhyme patterns.
4. Use short connected text to answer questions and write a simple sentence.

How to use this pack

1. Complete activity 1 before practice. An adult may read the instructions and unfamiliar story words, but should not choose answers. Record any help so the check is not mistaken for independent reading.
2. In activities 2-5, an adult may model each target word slowly, then blend its sounds. Use the short vowel sound in cat, not the letter name A. The same distinction applies to the other vowels. Do not score unrecorded listening or pronunciation from these written answers.
3. Read activity 6 together if needed. Story helper words such as the, he, to and reads do not all follow the target CVC pattern; teach or read them separately. The stories are supported reading, not fully decodable texts.
4. Try activity 7 on a later day with the same kind of support used in activity 1. Compare P01/P25, P02/P26, P03/P27 and P04/P28 by skill. Practise one missed pattern again; these different checks are not equivalent tests.

Suggested ages or grades describe difficulty only. This is original supplementary practice, not an official textbook, exam paper, or standardized assessment. Use your errors to choose the next practice task.

Activity 1

Starting check

Try the word questions, then read the story for P04. Ask for help with unfamiliar story words if needed.

Sam and the cat

Sam has a cat. The cat is on a mat by a red bag. Sam puts a cap in the bag. The cat taps the cap with a paw. Sam moves the cap to a box. Then he sits by the mat. The cat has a nap, and Sam reads a book. The room is quiet.

P01 Write the middle letter of pin.

P02 Change the first letter of bag from b to t. Write the new word.

P03 Choose the word with the same ending letters and rhyme pattern as mat.

cat met mop

P04 In the story, where does Sam move the cap after the cat taps it?

Activity 2

Short a and short e

Letters represent sounds

In these target words, CVC means consonant, vowel, consonant: cat has c-a-t and pen has p-e-n. An adult can model the three sounds and blend them into the word. The middle sound in cat is short a; it is not the letter name A. Short e is the middle sound in pen.

Short a	Short e
cat, mat, hat	hen, pen, ten
cap, map, tap	bed, red, fed

P05 Write the missing middle letter to make cat: c _ t.

P06 Change the first letter of mat from m to p. Write the new word.

P07 Choose the word with the same ending letters and rhyme pattern as net.

pot pet pin

P08 Choose the word that makes sense: Ben uses a ___ to write his name.

pan pin pen

Activity 3

Short i and short o

Keep the middle sound short

Short i: pin, tin, sit, fit. Short o: pot, hot, top, mop. An adult can model the words in their usual English accent. In these words, use the middle vowel sound, not the letter names I and O. Helper words in the story may use other patterns.

The tin box

Tim has a tin box on a mat. A red lid is on the box. Tim lifts the lid and puts a pin in the box. His dad has a mop by the door. Tim puts the lid back on the box. Then he and Dad sit on the mat and look at a book.

P09 Write the missing middle letter to make tin: t _ n.

P10 Change the first letter of pot from p to h. Write the new word.

P11 Choose the word with the same ending letters and rhyme pattern as sit.

cup sat fit

P12 In the story, where is the tin box?

Activity 4

Short u in useful words

A short-u family

Short u is the middle sound in sun, run, bun, cup and tub. Sun, run and bun share the un ending. Cup and tub also have short u, but they do not belong to the un family. An adult may model the sounds before practice.

A cup for the plant

Mum has a cup of water for a plant. Gus has a bun in a bag. He puts the bag on a mat and runs to Mum. Mum gives him the cup. Gus puts the water in the plant pot. Then he puts the empty cup by the tub and sits on the mat with his bun.

P13 Write the missing middle letter to make cup: c _ p.

P14 Change the first letter of sun from s to r. Write the new word.

P15 Choose the word with the same ending letters and rhyme pattern as bun.

sun bed bin

P16 What is in the cup at the start of the story?

Activity 5

Look at the whole word

One change can change the meaning

Cat and hat keep the at ending. Cat and cut change the middle letter, so the vowel sound and meaning change. Read the whole word, then check the sentence. A matching last letter alone is not enough to make a rhyme: cat and cot both end in t but do not rhyme.

Middle letter	Target examples
a	cap, map
e	pen, hen
i	pin, tin
o	pot, hot
u	cup, tub

P17 Write both words that share the ot ending and rhyme: cot, hot, hit. Both words are needed for 1 point.

P18 Which word has a different middle vowel letter: pen, pan, hen?

P19 Change only the middle letter of cap to make a word for a drinking container. Write the new word.

P20 Choose the word that makes sense: I put the lid on the cooking ____.

pet pot pat

Activity 6

Read, find and write

Target words include cap, cat, mat, sat, tub, wet and sun. Ask an adult for help with other story words. Read the full story before answering.

The wet cap

Dan put his cap on a chair by a tub. His cat sat on a mat. When Dan picked up the chair, the cap fell into the tub of water. The cat stayed on the mat. Dan took the cap out. It was wet. He put it in the sun. Then he sat by the cat and waited.

P21 Copy one word from the story that ends in at.

P22 Why was Dan's cap wet?

P23 Where did Dan put the cap after taking it out of the tub?

P24 Write one complete sentence that matches the story and uses sat.

Activity 7

A different exit check

Use the same kind of help as in activity 1. Try the word questions, then read this new story for P28.

Kim's map

Kim has a map in a red bag. She puts the map on a desk. Her brother brings a pen, and they draw a path on the map. The path goes past a big hut. Kim puts the pen in a pot. At the end, she puts the map back in the bag and closes it.

P25 Write the middle letter of nut.

P26 Change the first letter of fan from f to m. Write the new word.

P27 Choose the word with the same ending letters and rhyme pattern as hen.

hat pen hip

P28 In the new story, where does Kim put the map at the end?

Keep and reuse

My practice record

Choose one skill to practise next. Record the help you used, then solve a different item independently.

Date	Skill / item	Help used	Next practice

My next step

One skill I can now explain:

One skill I will practise again:

I will practise on:

Progress means needing less help or explaining your reasoning more clearly. This sheet does not predict a school or external examination score.