

/b/

Technical Description: Voiced bilabial stop

Practical Description: Lips closed; slight air pressure build up; voice is added as a light puff of air is exploded by the sudden partin of the lips, a voiced /p/. Avoid adding a schwa sound.

Note that the lips form a line when pronouncing the /b/. This knowledge will prevent the students from confusing the mirror letters b, d.

Examples: Ball, bed boy, about, tub

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b

/p/

Technical Description: unvoiced bilabial aspirated stop

Practical Description: Lips closed, slight air pressure build up; a light puff of air is exploded by sudden parting of the lips.
Avoid adding a schwa sound.

Examples: picture, pear, pet, pan, tap, top, tip, pie, apple, cup

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p

/d/

Technical Description: voiced bilabial stop

Practical Description: Teeth parted slightly; the tongue tip is placed against the alveolar ridge; air pressure is built up, voice is added as a light puff of air is exploded by suddenly dropping the tongue; a voiced /t/.

Note that the letter d begins with a circle, whereas the letter b starts with a line.. Coincidentally the lips forms a circle when forming the d and a line when forming the b.

Examples: door, dog, dig, dop, lad, sad

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d

/t/

Technical Description: unvoiced bilabial stop

Practical Description: Teeth are parted slightly; tongue tip is placed against the alveolar ridge; air pressure is built up; a puff of air is exploded by suddenly dropping the tongue. Avoid the adding schwa sound.

Examples: table, tent, truck, train, tack, hat, mat, cat, tile, butter, cut

t

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/g/

Technical Description: voiced back velar stop

Practical Description: Tongue tip at base of lower teeth; the back of the tongue rises to contact the velum; air pressure is built up; voice is added as air pressure is released by suddenly dropping the tongue; a voiced /k/. Exact point of contact with the velum is influenced by the vowel that follows the /g/.

Examples: gate, gun, leg, bag, go, began, bug.

g l

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/k/

Technical Description: Back velar aspirated stop

Practical Description: Tongue tip at base of the lower teeth; back of the tongue rises to contact the velum; air pressure is built up; the air pressure is released by a sudden drop of the tongue.

Exact position of the tongue and velum is influenced by the vowel that follows the /k sound in words. Avoid schwa.

Spelled "k" after e, i, and y. Spelled "c" after a, o, u. Use "ck" at the end of a word after a short vowel.

Examples: kite, kitchen, cup, cap, tack, key, basket, book

k

caou

ck

ch²

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/z/

Technical Description: Voiced Alveolar fricative

Practical Description: Tongue in respective desired position for /s/, add voice to get a/z/.

Examples: Zebra, zoo, is, as, rose, easy, zebra.

Z
z

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/s/

Technical Description: Unvoiced Alveolar fricative

Practical Description: Tongue tip as base of lower teeth; air flows through a small opening and out of the mouth, producing the acoustic properties of /s/. (Tongue is at the base of the alveolar ridge).

Examples: sun, soldier, son, asked, bus, cent, city cycle, son, asked, bus

l
S
C
e
i
y
sc ps

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/v/

Technical Description: voiced labiodental fricative

Practical Description: Lower lip approximates the upper incisors; voice is added. Friction is created as air stream is emitted between the teeth and lip. There is a greater amount of lip-teeth tension for /v/, a voiced /f/.

Examples: **vase, violin, vine, seven,**

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V

/f/

Technical Description: unvoiced labiodental fricative

Practical Description: Lower tip approximates the upper incisors; friction is created as air is emitted between th lip and teeth. The spelling “ph” is from Greek. Avoid schwa.

Examples: fish, fork, foot, coffee, cuff, phone, elephant, laugh

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f

ph

/th/

Technical Description: voiced tip dental fricative

Practical Description: Tongue position as for /th /¹ / ; voice is added as air stream passes from mouth.

Examples: that, the, leather, bathe.

th¹

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/th/

Technical Description: unvoiced tip dental fricative

Practical Description: Tongue blade in a broad, relaxed manner approximates the upper teeth, the tongue tip usually protrudes slightly between the teeth; the air stream passed between the tongue and teeth.

Examples: thorn, thistle, think, anything, bath

th²

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/w/

Technical Description: voiced bilabial fricative

Practical Description: Lip rounded and slightly protruded; the lip position is held only momentarily and voice is emitted just before the lip move to the position for the next sound.

Examples: woman, wagon, was, away.

W

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/wh/

Technical Description: voiceless bilabial fricative

Practical Description: Lip rounded and slightly protruded; the lip position is held only momentarily and voice is emitted just before the lip move to the position for the next sound.

Examples: whip, wheel, what, anywhere

wh

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/j/

Technical Description: Voiced alveopalatal stop

Practical Description: Close jaw slightly, lips are slightly rounded; tongue is broadened along alveolar ridge touching molars on each side; air pressure is built up, and voice is added as the air pressure is exploded by suddenly dropping the tongue and jaw; voiced /ch/. Avoid schwa.

Examples: jet, gym, jump, enjoy germ, rage, dodge, soldier, gradual, exaggerate.

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j

ge

deg

/ch/

Technical Description: Voiceless alveolar stop

Practical Description: Lips slightly rounded; the tongue is broadened along alveolar ridge touching molars on each side; air pressure is built up, and exploded by suddenly dropping the tongue and jaw, exploded /sh/.

Examples: chair, chair, luncheon, church, watch, (tion – mention; c – cello, ture – furniture)

ch

/zh/

Technical Description: Voiced alveopalatal fricative

Practical Description: Lip and tongue positions are the same as for /sh/ Voice is added as air passes through the aperture (opening, mouth)

Examples: treasure, measure, beige, (si) vision.

Not taught in Blend Phonics. Could be taught with Unit 43.

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-su-

/sh/

Technical Description: Voiceless alveopalatal fricative

Practical Description: Lips slightly rounded, squared, and protruded; tongue is broadened to touch the molars on each side; the tongue blade approximates sides of alveolar ridge; an aperture (opening) larger than for /s/ is formed down the middle of the tongue. Air is forced down the aperture; sound is produced as the air passes through the aperture (opening).

Examples: shoe, shadow, ashen, bush, ti (natiin), ci (special)
ce (ocean), ch (Chicago, su (sugar)

sh₃

ch

ci si ti

/l/

Technical Description: Voiced alveolar lateral fricative).

Practical Description: Tongue blade is broad, fitted lightly against the alveolar ridge; voice flows around the tongue and out.

Examples: lamp, leaf, look, follow, ball, battle

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l

ll

/m/

Technical Description: Voiced bilabial nasal

Practical Description: Lips are closed lightly; teeth slightly parted; tongue in neutral position velopharyngeal port is open; voiced breath stream is emitted through the nasal cavity.

Examples: man, mat, summer, ham, comb, column.

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m

mb

/n/

Technical Description: Voiced alveolar nasal

Practical Description: Tongue is in position for the /t/ and or /n/ with the tip against the alveolar ridge; the velopharyngeal port is opened; voiced air stream is emitted through the nasal cavity..

Examples: nose, nest, nose, annoy, can, knee, sign, pneumonia.

n

kn gn

pn

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/r/

Technical Description: --fricative--

Practical Description: Mouth is in a neutral position; the corners of the lips may be slightly tense; sides of the tongue blend contact the morals on each side; tongue tip is rolled up and back toward the hard palate; force flows over the tongue.

Examples: ring, rose, ran, arise, wrong, rhetoric, rheumatism

r

wr rh

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/y/

Technical Description: voiced alveolar fricative

Practical Description: Tongue tip is down; the sides of the tongue blade touch the molars on each side; a small aperture (opening) is formed down the middle of the tongue; voice passes through this aperture (opening) and friction is produced; the sound is essentially the same as the vowel sound of feet.

Examples: yard, yawn, yet, vineyard

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y

/ng/

Technical Description: voiced back velar nasal

Practical Description: tip of tongue is down at the back. of the lower teeth; the back of the tongue rises to contact the velum; the velopharyngeal port is open and voice is emitted through the nasal cavity.

Examples: ring, bring, song; n -= ng in thank, bank, etc.

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ng

/h/

Technical Description: voiceless glottal fricative

Practical Description: A light flow of air is emitted from the mouth. The position of the lips and tongue and degree of mouth opening will be influenced by the vowel that follows /h/. There is no single position for articulators for the /h/.

Note: the Wh in Who is simple /h/ sound.

Examples: hand, house, hat, doghouse

h

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/ks/

Technical Description: See /k/ and /x/

Practical Description: The x has no sound of its own. It has a combination of /k/ and /s/ sounds. Back of the tongue is humped up against the palate; sides of the tongue are in contact with the upper side teeth; suction occurs between the palate and tongue. Air explodes through a central aperture formed by the tip of the tongue ij light contact with lower front teeth.

Examples: six, ax, box, rocks

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-X

/kwh/

Technical Description: see /k/ and /wh/

Practical Description: The qu has no sound of its own. It has a combination of /k/ and /wh/ sounds.

Examples: quack, quiz, quick

qu

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/ă/

Technical Description: vowel: short /-ă-/

Practical Description: Slight arcing off the tongue blade in the middle; edges of tongue blade may come in contact with the upper molars. The tip of the tongue is as the base of the lower teeth. jaw is lower; mouth is open more.

Examples: apple, ant, cat (ai in plaid)

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-ă-

/ĕ/

Technical Description: Vowel: short /-ĕ-/

Practical Description: Tongue contour is slightly lower than for /ĭ-ĭ/; lips are more relaxed than for /ĭ-ĭ/. The jaw opening is slightly more than for /ĭ-ĭ/ .

Hint: To teach short /ĕ/, have th students beat on their chest. The/ĕ/ appears to take a **lot** more energy to produce than the short /ĭ/. Illustrate this with /pen and /pin or /ten/ and /tin/.

Examples: egg, elephant, leg, ea² (bread), ai (said)

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-ĕ-
2
ea

/ɪ/

Technical Description: Vowel: short /-ɪ-/

Practical Description: Front of tongue blade is high. Jaw begins to open slightly. Tongue forms an aperture (opening) slightly larger than for /ē/ because it is at or near the base of the lower front teeth.

Examples: ink, Indian, it, hit -y (bicycle)

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• i -

- y

/ɒ/

Technical Description: Vowel: short /-ɒ-/

Practical Description: Almost no elevation of the tongue; the mouth is open slightly; lips are not as rounded as for /aw/; phonation may be of shorter duration than for /aw/.

Examples: ox, ostrich, hot, not.

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/ŭ/

Technical Description: Vowel sound: short /ŭ/

Practical Description: Sensation of production is in the middle of mouth; neutral sound, in that it is in the middle; is often an unstressed sound. Tongue is as flat as it ever will be in speech production. Tongue is a straight line. Tongue tip is at the base of the lower front teeth

Note: Basically the same as the schwa in unstressed syllables.

Examples: umbrella, umpire, cut, gum, o (mother), o-e (one, love), ou (tough), -a (soda)

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-U-

/ā/

Technical Description: Vowel: long /ā/

Practical Description: All diphthongs have a radical and a glide, two distinct components. Low front radical plus *y* glide; *y* is approximately /ē/ in *feet*.

Examples: aim, ace, cake, game, ai (paid), ay (pay): ey (they) eight (eight) ei (reign) et (ballet).

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a-e

ai ay

eigh

3

ea

/ē/

Technical Description: Vowel: long /ē/

Practical Description: Most forward and highest point for the tongue that is possible; a difficult sound to get; tongue tip is at the base of lower front teeth; front part of the tongue blade is shigh; sides of tongue are against the molars; corners of the mouth are drawn back, as if in a smile. Slight space between the upper and lower teeth.

Examples: eat, eel, feet, see, ea¹ (meat) -e (me), i-e (police), j ei (receive), ey (key), ie (piece).

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ee

l

ea

e-e

-e

---y

/ɪ/

Technical Description: Vowel: long /ɪ/

Practical Description: Mid-back, wide radical close to *ah* sound plus high front *y* glide.

Examples: ice, I, like, tie, igh (light), -y (sky) I (mind, child)

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i-e

igh

-y

ye

/ō/

Technical Description: Vowel: long /ō/

Practical Description: Mid-back round radical plus high front round y glide.

Hint: oe = /ō/ of toe; oa = o// of boat.

Examples: open, overcoat, home, hope, oa (boat) ow² (bow), -o (so), ew (sew), ough (though), o (comb)

O-e

oa oe
2

OW

-O

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/yoo/

Technical Description: Vowel: long /ū/ = AHD /yoo/

Practical Description: High, front, round radical plus high back round w glide.

Examples: use, unite, perfume, ew (few), eau (beautiful).

u-e

eu ew

ue

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/au/

Technical Description: Vowel diagram /au/

Practical Description: Tongue elevation is low, nearing the floor of the mouth; lips are rounded; mouth is slightly more open than for /ɔʊ/. The tongue is relaxed.

Spelling Hint: This is the /au/ that can **not** be used at the end of English words because English words do not end in the letter 'u'. On the other hand, "aw" can be used at the end of English words.

Examples: awning, bought, awful, ball. au (caught), ough (bought), ar (quart).

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au

aw

/ou/

Technical Description: Vowel digraph /ou/

Practical Description: Diphthong; mid-back radical plus rounded w glide. *W* glide is an approximate /oo/ or /w/ sound.

Examples: ow¹ (cow), mouth, ough (bough)

¹
ou

¹
ow

¹
ough

/oi/

Technical Description: Vowel digraph /oi/

Practical Description: Low, back, round radical plus high front round y glide.

Examples: noise, boy, oil, boil, oy (boy).

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oi

oy

/oo/

Technical Description: short /oo/

Practical Description: The lips should be slightly, but less rounded than for /oo/. jaw begins to open, creating a widening on the vertical axis. The back of the tongue is relatively high,, low in front; tongue tip is at the base of the lower teeth.

Examples: roof, book, push, put

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1
oo
u

/oo/

Technical Description: Long /oo/

Practical Description: The lips should be slightly, but less rounded than for /oo/. jaw begins to open, creating a widening on the vertical axis. The back of the tongue is relatively high,, low in front; tongue tip is at the base of the lower teeth.

Examples:, zoo, too, boot, ou) soup), ue (blue), oe (shoe), ew (flew), o (do), wo (two), ough (through), ui (fruit).

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2
OO

/är/

Technical Description: Double dot / ä r/

Practical Description: General American vowelized *r* component is deemphasized in initial teaching; tongue is low and there is very little arching or curvature. The moth is as open as it gets to be in speech. Easy relaxed phonation de-emphasizing vowelized *r* common in some regions; for erase of teaching /ø/ can be helpful until child is able to add the /r/ component.

Examples: car, cart, dart, chart

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ar

/air/

Technical Description:

Practical Description: long /ā/ + /r/.

Examples: dare, heir

air

eir

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/ûr/

Technical Description: Considered a schwa followed by /r/ = /ər/.

Practical Description: Reasonable amount of tension in lips and tongue must be present. If not, production will be *ur* instead of *ur*. The sides of the tongue touch the molars. The tongue contour influences acoustic properties. There is a slight rounding and protrusion of the lips. “Voice is added; not the same sound as the consonant, fricative /r/ as in red.

Examples: girl, turtle, -er (her), -ir (bird), -or (word), -ar (bear), ol (colone)

er ir ur
(wor)

/ə/

Technical Description: Schwa. Any in unaccented syllable.

Practical Description: The same sound as a short /ŭ/. Vowels often are reduced to schwa in unaccented syllables. Blend Phonics introduces the schwa with the vowel 'a' only. Students naturally reduce vowels correctly when reading connected text.

Examples: drama, button, about, asleep, amuse, awake, ahead, alike.

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a

e

i

o

u

Blend Phonics Sound-to-Symbol Flash Cards

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These phonics flash cards are designed to be used with Hazel Loring's *Reading Made Easy with Blend Phonics for First Grade* (1980) The cards grow out of the work of Caroline Yale and her *Northampton Phonics Charts* published in her 1946 *Formation and Development of Elementary English Sounds*. The original *Open Court* used the same basic symbols. A similar set of symbols can be found on the *Phonovisual Consonant and Vowel Charts* available from www.phonovisua.com.

The basic organization of the English speech sounds on these cards follows the crystal clear analysis in Rudolf Flesch's 1955 *Why Johnny Can't Read and what you can do about it*.

See my www.blendphonics.org for a free copy of Loring's phonics method. There are also progress charts, certificates, and a *Blend Phonics Reader* available for free.

These cards are of a universal nature and can be used with profit as a supplement to any phonics program. I have made them available for FREE in order to assure the widest dissemination possible so the boys and girls of American can all learn to read well with phonics first.

For advanced information on the best way to teach reading, visit www.donpotter.net.

Donald Potter, Odessa, TX, 2/26/08

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