

SAMPLE

Q

Sound identification

¹ a	'a'	ant
² a	'ay'	ate
³ a	'ah'	ask
⁴ a	'aw'	all
⁵ a	'o'	wash

Reading rules

a usually says its first sound 'a' if followed by a consonant within the same syllable (tap, ap-ple).

a may say its first sound 'a' if followed by two consonants (land).

a usually says its second sound 'ay' at the end of a syllable (ba-by).

a usually says its second sound 'ay' if a silent e ends the word (make).

a may say its third sound 'ah' if followed by two consonants (last).

a always says its fourth sound 'aw' if followed by **ll** or **lk** (all, walk).

a usually says its fifth sound 'o' after **w** or **qu** (was, squat).

Spelling rules

a may not represent the sound 'ay' at the end of a word. **ay** is usually used (day).

SAMPLE

S

S

Sound identification

¹
s 's' sit
²
s 'z' please

Reading rules

s says its second sound 'z' at the end of a word if it follows a vowel sound or a voiced consonant sound (say²s, love²s, egg²s).

Spelling rules

s is often doubled at the end of a one-syllable word following a single vowel if it says its first sound 's' (fuss)

ss may never be used to represent the sound 'z'.

s may never be used to represent the sound 'z' at the beginning of a word.

s never follows **x**.

Voicing

The first sound 's' is unvoiced. The same mouth position is used for the second sound 'z', but 'z' is voiced.

th

Sound identification

¹**th** 'th' **thank**
²**th** 'thh' **them**

th

Reading rules

Silent **e** at the end of a word makes **th** say its second sound 'thh' (bat**he**, teet**he**).

Spelling rules

The sound 'thh' at the end of a word is represented by **th+e** (lit**he**, see**th**e). The exception is smooth**th**.

Voicing

These two sounds are formed in the same way — releasing air between the tongue and upper teeth — but 'th' is unvoiced and 'thh' is voiced. Feel the vibration on the tongue as the sound is voiced.

ough

Sound identification

¹ ough	'oh'	though
² ough	'oo'	through
³ ough	'uff'	rough
⁴ ough	'off'	trough
⁵ ough	'aw'	fought
⁶ ough	'ow'	drought

Reading rules

ough says its fifth sound 'aw' before **t**. The exception is **drought**.

Spelling rules

ough may only be used at the end of a word or before **t**.

ough