

Phonemic Awareness Warm-Ups for Phonics Lessons

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How to Use

- Print these warm-ups to use at the start of your phonics lessons.
- These quick oral activities will prepare your students' ears for what they will encounter in print.
- **Note:** Be sure to do activities such as phoneme-grapheme mapping later in the phonics lesson so that you combine letters with phonemic awareness instruction.

Phonemic Awareness Warm-Ups for Phonics Lessons

Use these quick oral warm-ups at the beginning of your phonics lessons to prepare your students' ears for what they will encounter in print. Be sure to do activities like phoneme-grapheme mapping later in the lesson so that you combine letters with phonemic awareness instruction.

Phoneme	Words	Oral Blending	Oral Segmenting
/ă/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat each word after me. What sound did you say at the beginning (middle, or end) of each word? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blend the sounds to make a word. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat the word and say the sounds. (Students can tap the sounds or move a counter for each sound.)
/ă/	apple, alligator, ax, astronaut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /k/ /ă/ /t/ = cat /m/ /ă/ /d/ = mad /p/ /ă/ /k/ = pack /s/ /ă/ /p/ = sap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rat = /r/ /ă/ /t/ chat = /ch /ă/ /t/ van = /v/ /ă/ /n/ cash = /k/ /ă/ /sh/
/ā/	apron, acorn, ate, able	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /ā/ /j/ = age /ā/ /d/ = aid /b/ /ā/ /k/ = bake /p/ /l/ /ā/ = play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ape = /ā/ /p/ ache = /ā/ /k/ chain = /ch/ /ā/ /n/ game = /g/ /ā/ /m/
/b/	balloon, bag, bird, boy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /b/ /ĕ/ /d/ = bed /b/ /ŭ/ /s/ = bus /b/ /ŏ/ /k/ /s/ = box /b/ /ō/ /t/ = boat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bug = /b/ /ŭ/ /g/ bit = /b/ /i/ /t/ buzz = /b/ /ŭ/ /z/ bath /b/ /ă/ /th/
/d/	dinosaur, door, doll, deer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /d/ /i/ /g/ = dig /d/ /ă/ /d/ = dad /d/ /ŭ/ /ck/ = duck /d/ /i/ /m/ = dime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dot = /d/ /ŏ/ /t/ dome = /d/ /ō/ /m/ did = /d/ /i/ /d/ dish = /d/ /i/ /sh/
/ĕ/	edge, elevator, egg, exit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /ĕ/ /g/ = egg /t/ /ĕ/ /n/ = ten /m/ /ĕ/ /s/ = mess /th/ /ĕ/ /m/ = them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> end = /ĕ/ /n/ /d/ red = /r/ /ĕ/ /d/ leg = /l/ /ĕ/ /g/ neck = /n/ /ĕ/ /k/
/ē/	even, email, equal, easy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /b/ /ē/ = bee /p/ /ē/ /t/ = Pete /ch/ /ē/ /z/ = cheese /n/ /ē/ /d/ = need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> see = /s/ /ē/ these = /th/ /ē/ /z/ meat = /m/ /ē/ /t/ teach = /t/ /ē/ /ch/
/f/	fire, fast, farm, family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /f/ /i/ /t/ = fit /f/ /ă/ /n/ = fan /f/ /ā/ /k/ = fake /f/ /i/ /sh/ = fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fed = /f/ /ĕ/ /d/ fog = /f/ /ŏ/ /g/ feet = /f/ /ē/ /t/ five = /f/ /i/ /v/
/g/	game, guitar, give, girl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /g/ /ō/ = go /g/ /ŭ/ /m/ = gum /g/ /ā/ /v/ = gave /g/ /ō/ /t/ = goat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gas = /g/ /ă/ /s/ got = /g/ /ŏ/ /t/ good = /g/ /oo/ /d/ gate = /g/ /ā/ /t/
/h/	happy, heart, hat, house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /h/ /i/ = high /h/ /ă/ /d/ = had /h/ /ŏ/ /t/ = hot /h/ /i/ /k/ = hike 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hay = /h/ /ā/ head = /h/ /ĕ/ /d/ hug = /h/ /ŭ/ /g/ hose = /h/ /ō/ /z/

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Phoneme	Words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat each word after me. • What sound did you say at the beginning (middle, or end) of each word? 	Oral Blending <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blend the sounds to make a word. 	Oral Segmenting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat the word and say the sounds. (Students can tap the sounds or move a counter for each sound.)
/i/	iguana, itch, into, insect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /i/ /n/ = in • /z/ /i/ /p/ = zip • /b/ /i/ /g/ = big • /r/ /i/ /ch/ = rich 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if = /i/ /f/ • sit = /s/ /i/ /t/ • kid = /k/ /i/ /d/ • ship = /sh/ /i/ /p/
/ī/	idea, ice, island, ivy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /ī/ /s/ = ice • /r/ /ī/ /d/ = ride • /b/ /ī/ /k/ = bike • /n/ /ī/ /t/ = night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hi = /h/ /ī/ • like = /l/ /ī/ /k/ • time = /t/ /ī/ /m/ • light = /l/ /ī/ /t/
/j/	jump, jelly, join, juice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /j/ /ō/ /b/ = job • /j/ /ě/ /t/ = jet • /j/ /ō/ /sh/ = Josh • /j/ /ō/ /k/ = joke 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • jay = /j/ /ā/ • jug = /j/ /ū/ /g/ • jam = /j/ /ă/ /m/ • Jack = /j/ /ă/ /k/
/k/	kitten, kick, king, keep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /k/ /i/ /d/ = kid • /k/ /ě/ /n/ = Ken • /k/ /i/ /k/ = kick • /k/ /ī/ /t/ = kite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • kit = /k/ /i/ /t/ • Kate = /k/ /ā/ /t/ • keep = /k/ /ē/ /p/ • kiss = /k/ /i/ /s/
/l/	lemon, lion, lady, light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /l/ /ō/ = low • /l/ /i/ /k/ = lick • /l/ /ō/ /g/ = log • /l/ /ē/ /f/ = leaf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lip = /l/ /i/ /p/ • led = /l/ /ě/ /d/ • luck = /l/ /ū/ /k/ • leash = /l/ /ē/ /sh/
/m/	monkey, milk, moon, make	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /m/ /ā/ = may • /m/ /ě/ /t/ = met • /m/ /ō/ /m/ = mom • /m/ /ā/ /d/ = made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my = /m/ /ī/ • mad = /m/ /ă/ /d/ • mash = /m/ /ă/ /sh/ • mean = /m/ /ē/ /n/
/n/	neck, note, nature, new	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /n/ /ă/ /p/ = nap • /n/ /ō/ /t/ = not • /n/ /ě/ /k/ = neck • /n/ /ī/ /t/ = night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no = /n/ /ō/ • nut = /n/ /ū/ /t/ • neat = /n/ /ē/ /t/ • name = /n/ /ā/ /m/
/ō/	ostrich, odd, octopus, otter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /ō/ /f/ = off • /j/ /ō/ /g/ = jog • /h/ /ō/ /p/ = hop • /m/ /ō/ /th/ = moth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on = /ō/ /n/ • odd = /ō/ /d/ • hog = /h/ /ō/ /g/ • shop = /sh/ /ō/ /p/
/ō/	open, ocean, over, oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /ō/ /t/ = oat • /b/ /ō/ /n/ = bone • /j/ /ō/ /k/ = joke • /r/ /ō/ /ch/ = roach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oak = /ō/ /k/ • coat = /k/ /ō/ /t/ • toe = /t/ /ō/ • those = /th/ /ō/ /z/
/oo/	wood, stood, took, cook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • /f/ /oo/ /t/ = foot • /l/ /oo/ /k/ = look • /h/ /oo/ /d/ = hood • /sh/ /oo/ /k/ = shook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hook = /h/ /oo/ /k/ • good = /g/ /oo/ /d/ • book = /b/ /oo/ /k/ • woof = /w/ /oo/ /f/

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/p/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat each word after me. What sound did you say at the beginning (middle, or end) of each word? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /p/ /ī/ = pie /p/ /ī/ /g/ = pig /p/ /ă/ /th/ = path /p/ /ē/ /k/ = peek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pay = /p/ /ā/ pop = /p/ /ō/ /p/ pack = /p/ /ă/ /k/ pill = /p/ /ī/ /l/
/k/ /w/	queen, question, quilt, quiet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /k/ /w/ /ī/ /k/ = quick /k/ /w/ /ī/ /z/ = quiz /k/ /w/ /ā/ /k/ = quake /k/ /w/ /ī/ /l/ /t/ = quilt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> quit = /k/ /w/ /ī/ /t/ quack = /k/ /w/ /ă/ /k/ quill = /k/ /w/ /ī/ /l/ quote = /k/ /w/ /ō/ /t/
/r/	rock, rabbit, rope, rain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /r/ /ī/ /s/ = rice /r/ /ī/ /p/ = rip /r/ /ā/ /n/ = rain /r/ /ă/ /sh/ = rash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ray = /r/ /ā/ run = /r/ /ū/ /n/ rich = /r/ /ī/ /ch/ right = /r/ /ī/ /t/
/s/	sad, salt, sick, said	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /s/ /ā/ = say /s/ /ī/ /k/ = sick /s/ /ă/ /d/ = sad /s/ /ō/ /p/ = soap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> see = /s/ /ē/ sat = /s/ /ă/ /t/ sock = /s/ /ō/ /k/ seat = /s/ /ē/ /t/
/t/	tooth, tiger, top, table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /t/ /oo/ = two /t/ /ě/ /n/ = ten /t/ /ī/ /m/ = time /t/ /ā/ /p/ = tape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tie = /t/ /ī/ tap = /t/ /ă/ /p/ team = /t/ /ē/ /m/ tune = /t/ /oo/ /n/
/ŭ/	umbrella, under, up, undo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /ŭ/ /p/ = up /f/ /ŭ/ /n/ = fun /m/ /ŭ/ /ch/ = much /p/ /ŭ/ /f/ = puff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> us = /ŭ/ /s/ rug = /r/ /ŭ/ /g/ shut = /sh/ /ŭ/ /t/ buzz = /b/ /ŭ/ /z/
/ū/	unicorn, use, uniform, unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /k/ /ū/ /b/ = cube /r/ /ū/ /d/ = rude /j/ /ū/ /s/ = juice /s/ /ū/ /p/ = soup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mule = /m/ /ū/ /l/ cute = /k/ /ū/ /t/ suit = /s/ /ū/ /t/ blue = /b/ /l/ /ū/
/v/	violin, vase, vest, visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /v/ /ě/ /t/ = vet /v/ /ā/ /s/ = vase /v/ /ō/ /t/ = vote /v/ /ě/ /n/ /t/ = vent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vote = /v/ /ō/ /t/ van = /v/ /ă/ /n/ vest = /v/ /ě/ /s/ /t/ vine = /v/ /ī/ /n/
/w/	well, wash, watermelon, way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /w/ /ē/ = we /w/ /ě/ /n/ = when /w/ /ă/ /g/ = wag /w/ /ā/ /t/ = wait 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> why = /w/ /ī/ wet = /w/ /ě/ /t/ week = /w/ /ē/ /k/ wipe = /w/ /ī/ /p/

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/k/ /s/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat each word after me. What sound did you say at the beginning (middle, or end) of each word? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blend the sounds to make a word. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat the word and say the sounds. (Students can tap the sounds or move a counter for each sound.)
/k/ /s/	relax, fox, wax, mix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /ŏ/ /k/ /s/ = ox /f/ /i/ /k/ /s/ = fix /s/ /ă/ /k/ /s/ = sax /m/ /i/ /k/ /s/ = mix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ax = /ă/ /k/ /s/ box = /b/ /ŏ/ /k/ /s/ six = /s/ /i/ /k/ /s/ wax = /w/ /ă/ /k/ /s/
/y/	yes, yellow, yak, yo-yo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /y/ /oo/ = you /y/ /ě/ /s/ = yes /y/ /ō/ /k/ = yolk /y/ /ar/ /d/ = yard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> yum = /y/ /ü/ /m/ yuck = /y/ /ü/ /k/ yell = /y/ /ě/ /l/ yet = /y/ /ě/ /t/
/z/	zipper, zebra, zero, zoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /z/ /oo/ = zoo /z/ /ă/ /p/ = zap /z/ /ō/ /n/ = zone /z/ /ě/ /s/ /t/ = zest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> zip = /z/ /i/ /p/ zen = /z/ /ě/ /n/ zoom = /z/ /oo/ /m/ zany = /z/ /ā/ /n/ /ē/
/sh/	ship, shirt, sheep, shell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /sh/ /oo/ = shoe /sh/ /i/ /p/ = ship /sh/ /ü/ /v/ = shove /sh/ /ā/ /k/ = shake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shy = /sh/ /i/ shut = /sh/ /ü/ /t/ shell = /sh/ /ě/ /l/ show = /sh/ /ō/
/th/	thumb, thin, thank, thunder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /th/ /i/ /n/ = thin /th/ /or/ /n/ = thorn /th/ /ē/ /ng/ = thing /th/ /r/ /ē/ = three 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> thigh = /th/ /i/ thick = /th/ /i/ /k/ thief = /th/ /ē/ /f/ third = /th/ /er/ /d/
/th/	this, them, these, though	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /th/ /i/ /s/ = this /th/ /ě/ /m/ = them /th/ /ă/ /t/ = that /th/ /ă/ /n/ = than 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> though = /th/ /ō/ then = /th/ /ě/ /n/ these = /th/ /ē/ /s/ they = /th/ /ā/
/ch/	chimp, cheese, chicken, chop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /ch/ /ă/ /t/ = chat /ch/ /i/ /p/ = chip /ch/ /ě/ /s/ = chess /ch/ /ē/ /k/ = cheek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> chop = /ch/ /ŏ/ /p/ chin = /ch/ /i/ /n/ chick = /ch/ /i/ /k/ cheap = /ch/ /ē/ /p/
/ng/	wing, wrong, sung, bang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /k/ /ē/ /ng/ = king /s/ /ŏ/ /ng/ = song /th/ /ē/ /ng/ = thing /r/ /ā/ /ng/ = rang 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lung = /l/ /ü/ /ng/ fang = /f/ /ā/ /ng/ sting = /s/ /t/ /ē/ /ng/ long = /l/ /ŏ/ /ng/
/er/	fern, perch, shirt, curl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /h/ /er/ = her /d/ /er/ /t/ = dirt /b/ /er/ /n/ = burn /p/ /er/ /ch/ = perch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sir = /s/ /er/ bird = /b/ /er/ /d/ herd = /h/ /er/ /d/ nurse = /n/ /er/ /s/
/or/	thorn, horse, cork, sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /f/ /or/ = for /k/ /or/ /n/ = corn /b/ /or/ /n/ = born /h/ /or/ /s/ = horse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tore = /t/ /or/ fork = /f/ /or/ /k/ short = /sh/ /or/ /t/ thorn = /th/ /or/ /n/

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/ar/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat each word after me. What sound did you say at the beginning (middle, or end) of each word? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blend the sounds to make a word. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat the word and say the sounds. (Students can tap the sounds or move a counter for each sound.)
/ar/	march, chart, dark, scarf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /k/ /ar/ = car /ar/ /k/ = ark /h/ /ar/ /d/ = hard /sh/ /ar/ /k/ = shark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> far = /f/ /ar/ park = /p/ /ar/ /k/ star = /s/ /t/ /ar/ charm = /ch/ /ar/ /m/
/ou/	cloud, down, shout, pouch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /ou/ /t/ = out /k/ /ou/ = cow /m/ /ou/ /s/ = mouse /k/ /ou/ /ch/ = couch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how = /h/ /ou/ town = /t/ /ou/ /n/ south = /s/ /ou/ /th/ loud = /l/ /ou/ /d/
/oi/	boil, point, spoil, voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /b/ /oi/ = boy /s/ /oi/ = soy /j/ /oi/ /n/ = join /f/ /oi/ /l/ = foil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> toy = /t/ /oi/ joy = /j/ /oi/ coin = /k/ /oi/ /n/ choice = /ch/ /oi/ /s/
/aw/	straw, saw, draw, paw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /aw/ /l/ = all /l/ /aw/ /n/ = lawn /s/ /aw/ /s/ = sauce /m/ /aw/ /l/ = mall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> jaw = /j/ /aw/ tall = /t/ /aw/ /l/ yawn = /y/ /aw/ /n/ pause = /p/ /aw/ /s/