



Long A ("ay") General Information

Vowel Sound — "ay"

Phonemic Designation — /eɪ/, /e/

Most Common Spellings

Letter	Word Example
a	table
a(C)e	name
ai	gain

Description

- produced as simple vowel or diphthong depending on syllable stress and phonetic context

Simple Vowel Description

- placement — mid-front
- production — tense unrounded

Diphthongized Description

- diphthongized vowel — eh-ih
- placement — lower mid-front to mid-front
- production — lax to tense unrounded

Physiological Description

- lips are apart with some possible tension in corners
- tip of tongue is at lower, front teeth
- body of tongue is at mid-plane and shifted forward
- tongue makes contact with back, top gum ridge and molars

Age of Mastery

- < 3-0 years — 51% of children
- 3-0 to 5-0 years — 90% of children

Other Production Notes

- generally produced as a diphthong in American English when in a single-syllable word or in a stressed syllable (i.e., "eh" and "ee" produced together)
- found in many other world languages
- least frequent front vowel in English language

Elicitation Ideas

- Break down the diphthong into each component ("eh" and "ih"). Try to determine which part of the sound the child is having difficulty with. Work on each sound individually. When the child can produce each part, work on blending the sounds together.
- If the child can produce "ee" but not "ih," attempt the diphthong with "eh" and "ee" (in place of "ih").

E

Short E ("eh")

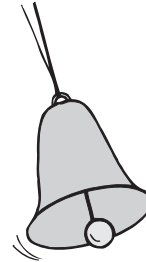
Single Word Level (CVC)



pen



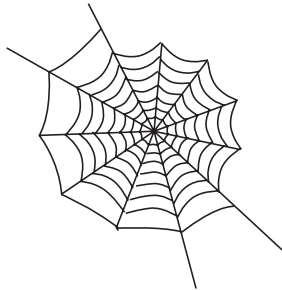
bed



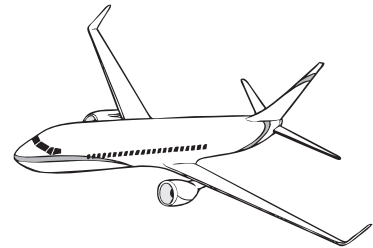
bell



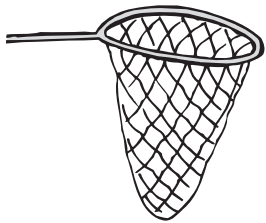
wet



web



jet



net



ten



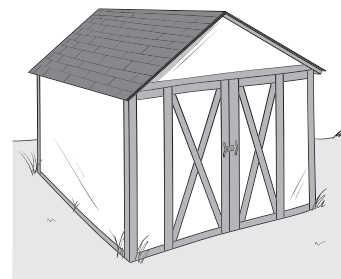
chef



vet



red



shed

Instructions for home practice: _____

O

Short O ("aw")

Word/Phrase/Sentence Level (CVC)



song

long song

John got to sing a long song.



thought

thought I called

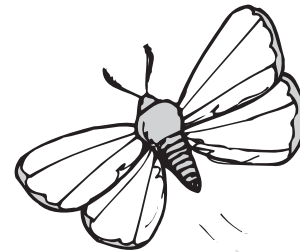
I thought I called my friend Dawn.



caught

caught the ball

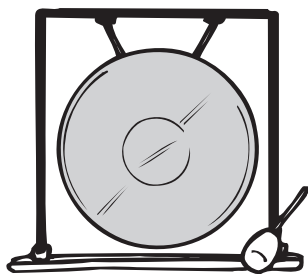
Vaughn caught the ball.



moth

moth in hall

I caught a moth in the hall.



gong

small gong

The small gong belongs to Ron.



bawl

Shawn will bawl

Shawn will bawl if he falls.

Instructions for home practice: _____

OI

Diphthong OI ("oi")

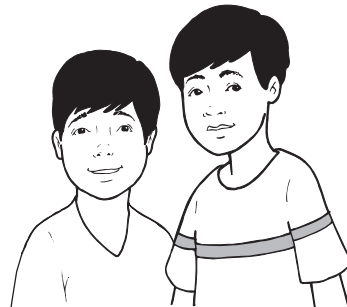
Word/Phrase/Sentence Level (CVC)



coin

found a coin

Roy found a coin in the soil.



boys

boys played

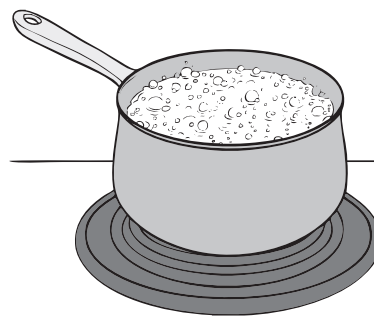
The boys played cowboys.



toys

share my toys

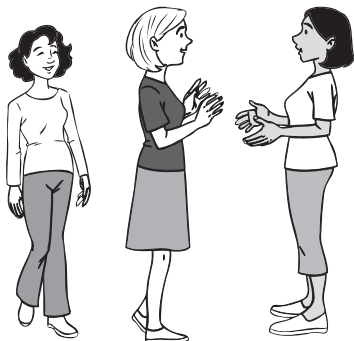
I share my toys with girls and boys.



boil

boil water

Boil the oysters in water.



join

join her friends

Joyce will join her friends.



voice

my voice

I rejoice with my voice.

Instructions for home practice: _____