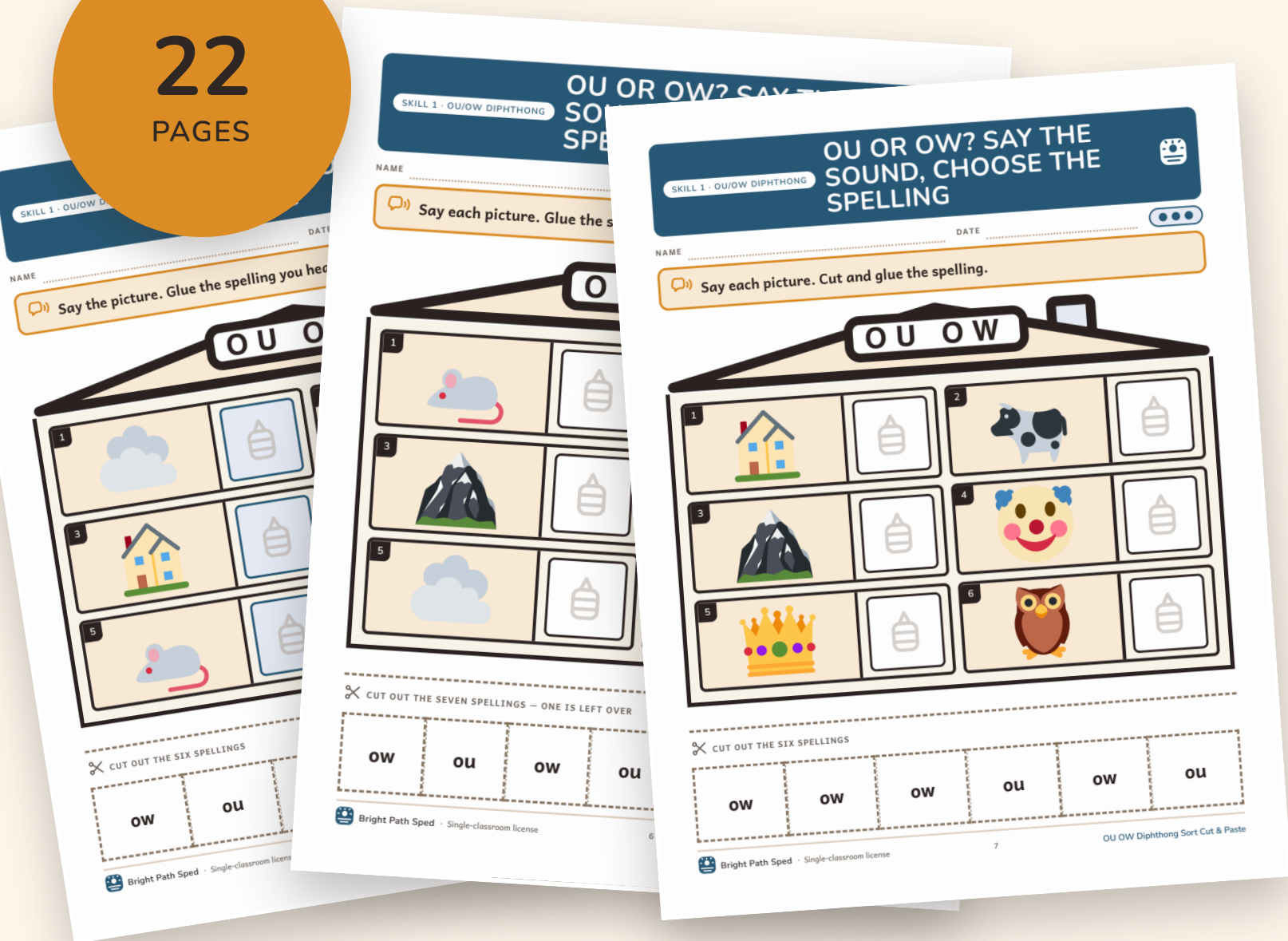


OU OW DIPHTHONGS

OU OW Diphthong Sort Cut and Paste, 3 Levels

22
PAGES





OU and OW spell the SAME sound — the sound in cow and cloud. That makes this pack a genuinely different job from a beginning- or middle-sound sort: a child cannot sound their way to the right spelling, because both spellings sound identical. What this pack teaches instead is a position rule and repeated practice with eight real words.

1 Read the plan page cold if you have to

The SAY THIS box is a script. Words in quotation marks are meant to be read out loud exactly as written. The stage directions in the lighter type are for you, not for the class.

2 Teach the position rule before Skill 1

ow shows up at the very end of a word, or right before n or l (cow, owl, crown, clown). ou shows up in the middle of a word, followed by another letter (cloud, house, mouse, mountain). It holds for every word in this pack and most ou/ow words a K-2 student will meet — not every single one, which the script says in plain words rather than overclaiming it.

3 Pick a level per student, not per class

Level 1 is a tinted box showing exactly where a piece goes, and no spare piece. Level 2 adds one extra piece to count against. Level 3 takes the tint away and splits the pictures unevenly, so the safe guess stops working. Nobody's page says which level it is: the three dots on the name line are the only code, and they are for you.

4 Skill 1 and Skill 3 print no word at all

On the OU-or-OW page and the sorting page, no word is printed next to any picture: the only print on the sheet is the two spellings themselves — on the roof sign, over each sorting house, and on each card to cut. Skill 2 (Finish the Word) is the one page where the word IS printed, with its spelling missing.

5 Write the data on the plan page

The data box sits at the bottom of every plan page, not a separate sheet.

If you only do one thing

Teach the position rule out loud before any student touches Skill 1. Without it, this page is a coin flip; with it, it is a real reading skill.

OU OR OW? SAY THE SOUND, CHOOSE THE SPELLING



Teach · 6 min

Work · 10 min

Print & go

OBJECTIVE

Given a picture with no letters printed beside it, the student will glue the two-letter spelling for the sound heard in the word, choosing between ou and ow, with 80% accuracy across 3 sessions.

You need: the pages behind this one, scissors, a glue stick. Nothing else.

SAY THIS

“Say cow and cloud slowly. They have the exact same sound in the middle, the sound you make if you stub your toe. Two spellings make that one sound, o-u and o-w, and your ears cannot tell them apart.”

Write cow and cloud on the board. Circle ow in cow, ou in cloud.

“Here is the trick: o-w shows up at the very END of a word, or right before an n or an l — cow, owl, crown. o-u shows up in the MIDDLE, with another letter after it — cloud, house.”

“Say the picture out loud first. Then ask: is this sound at the very end of the word, or is there another letter after it? That question picks the spelling.”

THE THREE LEVELS



Six pictures, six cards, and the box is tinted so there is no question where a piece goes. Both spellings are still on the strip, because choosing between them IS the skill.



Six pictures, no tint, seven cards, one spare. The spare is a second copy of a spelling already in play, so a student who counts the pieces instead of thinking about position gets the page wrong.



Six pictures, no tint and no spare, split unevenly (two ou, four ow) so neither spelling is the safe guess.

IF A STUDENT IS STUCK

- If a student tries to SOUND their way to the spelling, stop them and ask the position question instead: end of the word, or more letters after it?
- If end-of-word versus middle-of-word is the confusion, have them hold up a finger for every sound after the ow/ou sound. Zero fingers up means it was at the end.
- If a student mixes up n/l-before-ow with a middle-of-word case, point out that cloud and house both have a letter after ou (d, s) that is neither n nor l, unlike owl, crown and clown.

TRY IT IN THE ROOM TODAY

Find one word in a classroom book spelled ow and one spelled ou. Say where in the word each spelling showed up: the very end (or before n/l), or the middle.

DATA

STUDENT

CORRECT

OUT OF

DATE

HOW MUCH HELP

☐ Independent ☐ Verbal prompt ☐ Model ☐ Hand over hand

WHAT I NOTICED TODAY



OU OR OW? SAY THE
SOUND, CHOOSE THE
SPELLING

NAME

DATE



Say the picture. Glue the spelling you hear: ou or ow.

O U O W

1



2



3



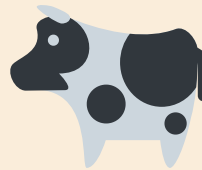
4



5



6



CUT OUT THE SIX SPELLINGS

ow

ou

ow

ou

ow

ou



OU OR OW? SAY THE SOUND, CHOOSE THE SPELLING



NAME

DATE



Say each picture. Glue the spelling you hear: ou or ow.

OU OW

1



2



3



4



5



6



CUT OUT THE SEVEN SPELLINGS — ONE IS LEFT OVER

ow

ou

ow

ou

ow

ou

ow



OU OR OW? SAY THE SOUND, CHOOSE THE SPELLING



NAME

DATE



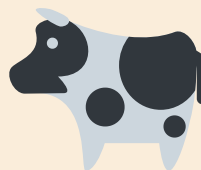
Say each picture. Cut and glue the spelling.

OU OW

1



2



3



4



5



6



CUT OUT THE SIX SPELLINGS

ow

ow

ow

ou

ow

ou





NAME _____

DATE _____



Say the word. Glue the spelling that is missing.

O U O W

1



c l



d

2



c r



n

3



m



s e



CUT OUT THE FIVE SPELLINGS

ou

ow

ou

ow

ou





NAME

DATE



Say each word. Glue the spelling that is missing.

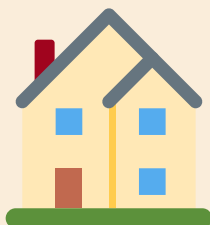
OU OW

1



l

2

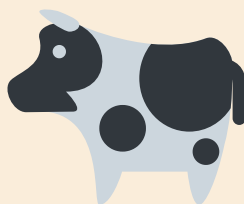


h



s e

3



c



CUT OUT THE FIVE SPELLINGS

OW

OU

OW

OU

OW





NAME

DATE



Cut out the pictures. Glue each picture in the house for its spelling.

OU



OW



✂ CUT OUT THE FIVE PICTURES





NAME

DATE



Say each picture and glue it in the house for its spelling. There is a card that belongs in neither house.

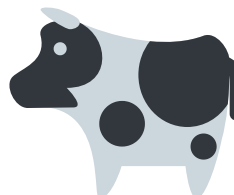
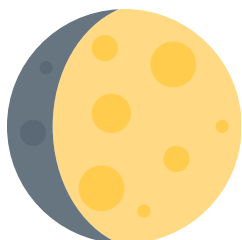
OU



OW



✂ CUT OUT THE FIVE PICTURES — ONE IS LEFT OVER



ANSWER KEY — ALL THREE SKILLS



Each item is listed as the picture (or word) and the spelling that belongs in its box, in the order the pictures appear on the page. Every answer was recomputed from the same data that draws the page, not typed in by hand.

OU or OW? Say the Sound, Choose the Spelling

Level 1 cloud – ou crown – ow house – ou owl – ow mouse – ou cow – ow

Level 2 mouse – ou clown – ow mountain – ou crown – ow cloud – ou owl – ow (left over: ow)

Level 3 house – ou cow – ow mountain – ou clown – ow crown – ow owl – ow

Finish the Word

Level 1 cloud – ou crown – ow mouse – ou

Level 2 owl – ow house – ou cow – ow

Level 3 house – ou clown – ow cloud – ou

Sort by Spelling

Level 1 ou cloud, house, mouse ow crown, owl

Level 2 ou house, mountain ow cow, clown (left over: moon)

Level 3 ou mouse, mountain ow crown, owl, cow

Why both spellings are on every strip

OU and OW sound identical, so a strip holding only one spelling would turn the page into matching rather than choosing. Level 1 scaffolds everything else instead: a tinted box showing exactly where a piece goes, and no spare piece to account for — the same scaffold this store's Beginning Sound Sort and Middle Sound Sort packs use for their own Level 1.



Jamal R. is an invented student — nothing on this page describes a real child. This is OU or OW? Say the Sound, Choose the Spelling, Level 2, filled in correctly, so you can see exactly what a finished page looks like before any student touches one. The blank page is page 6.

O U		O W	
1 	ou	2 	ow
3 	ou	4 	ow
5 	ou	6 	ow



CUT OUT THE SEVEN SPELLINGS — ONE IS LEFT OVER

ow	ou	ow	ou	ow	ou	ow
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

How to read it

Jamal glued every one of the 6 pictures correctly: 3 OU and 3 OW. One extra OW card is left over, uncut, because OW was already glued everywhere it belonged on this page. Every number here comes straight off this level's own data — the same data that drew the page and the answer key (page 16).



THANK YOU FOR USING THIS RESOURCE

Everything here was built for the teacher who has thirty minutes of planning time and twelve students who each need something different. If it saved you an hour, it worked.

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Beginning Sound Sort Cut & Paste

The first sound in a word, the same three-level ladder

Middle Sound Sort Cut & Paste

Short vowels in the middle, three levels

Ending Sounds Cut and Paste

The same sort, built for the last sound in the word

Syllable Sort Cut and Paste

Counting syllables, three levels

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