

NONSENSE WORD FLUENCY PRACTICE

Real or Nonsense, Sort by Vowel Sound and Fluency Line Reading — short-vowel CVC decoding practice. Fillable PDF.

START HERE QUICK START

One complete kit for short-vowel CVC decoding: circling real against made-up words, sorting made-up words by vowel sound, and reading rows of made-up words aloud for practice — every student answer is circled or written in pencil, nothing is cut or glued on a student page.

THREE STEPS

- Meet the five short vowels**
Page 6 names all five and pairs each with a real word and a made-up one. Read it with a student before the first worksheet.
- Pick a format**
Three ways to practice: Real or Nonsense (circle it), Sort by Vowel Sound (write it), and Fluency Line Reading (read it aloud, untimed). The chart below says which page.
- Track it, roll it up, send it home**
The answer keys are pages 19 and 20. Date each vowel on the tracker (page 21), roll the class up on page 22, and send the family note home (page 23). A filled example is on page 25.

WHICH PAGE, WHEN

WHEN...	USE...
New to telling real words from made-up ones	Real or Nonsense, pages 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Ready to sort a made-up word by its vowel sound	Sort by Vowel Sound, pages 12, 13
Practicing oral reading of short-vowel sounds	Fluency Line Reading, pages 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
Running a small group warm-up	Small Group Warm-Up, page 24
Writing a family update or noticing a vowel	Family note, page 23 • phrase bank, page 26
Setting up a binder for this file	Binder cover and divider tabs, pages 27-28

Everything inside (29 pages)

- 11 student pages: 5 Real or Nonsense pages, 2 Sort by Vowel Sound sets and 5 Fluency Line Reading pages
- 120 words practiced: 20 real words and 100 made-up words, every made-up word checked in code against real-word lists
- 2 answer keys generated from the same data as the above: 1 tracker and 1 class card

What this is not
Not a standardized or norm-referenced test, a screener, or a clinical tool. Fluency Line Reading is untimed practice, never a scored rate. Page 4 shows how each page works.

SHORT A REAL OR NONSENSE

My name: _____ Date: _____

Read each word out loud. Circle REAL if it is a true word. Circle NONSENSE if it is a made-up word.

1 hat REAL NONSENSE	2 zaf REAL NONSENSE
3 cat REAL NONSENSE	4 zad REAL NONSENSE
5 zag REAL NONSENSE	6 zab REAL NONSENSE
7	8

SHORT A SORT BY VOWEL SOUND

My name: _____ Date: _____

Read each made-up word in the box below. Write it under the short vowel sound you hear.

zel	zim	zak	zum	zil	zom	zem	zal	zul
zol								

SHORT A	SHORT E	SHORT I	SHORT O	SHORT U

SHORT A FLUENCY LINE READING

My name: _____ Date: _____

Read each row of made-up words out loud, left to right. This is practice reading short-vowel sounds, not a timed test. Check the box after a row is read smoothly.

zav	kak	haz	zaz	☐
kad	kag	kab	kal	☐

TRACKER NONSENSE WORD FLUENCY TRACKER

STUDENT _____ TEACHER _____ MONTH _____

VOWEL	TRY	REAL OR NONSENSE (SCORE, DATE)	SORT BY VOWEL (SCORE, DATE)	FLUENCY READING (DATE)	NOTES
Short A	First try				
Short A	Second try				
Short E	First try				
Short E	Second try				
Short I	First try				
Short I	Second try				
Short O	First try				
Short O	Second try				
Short U	First try				
Short U	Second try				

How to fill this in
Date each cell the day the child does that format for that vowel with no prompt. "First try" and "Second try" are two different occasions, not two attempts at the same worksheet — leave the second row blank until the vowel comes back around. A blank never means wrong, only not tried yet. Answer keys: pages 19 and 20. Filled example: page 25.

THIS MONTH WE ARE FOCUSING ON _____

EXAMPLE MATEO'S TRACKER

Mateo R. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 21.

STUDENT _____ TEACHER _____ MONTH _____

Mateo R. (an invented student) Mr. Alavi (invented) September-October

VOWEL	TRY	REAL OR NONSENSE (SCORE, DATE)	SORT BY VOWEL (SCORE, DATE)	FLUENCY READING (DATE)	NOTES
Short A	First try	7/8, 9/5	9/10, 9/8	9/10	-
Short A	Second try	8/8, 9/19	10/10, 9/19	9/22	-
Short E	First try	6/8, 9/9	8/10, 9/12	9/13	Needed a reminder on made-up words
Short E	Second try	8/8, 9/23	10/10, 9/23	9/24	-
Short I	First try	7/8, 9/16	-	-	-
Short I	Second try	-	-	-	-
Short O	First try	-	-	-	-
Short O	Second try	-	-	-	-
Short U	First try	8/8, 9/22	9/10, 9/22	9/24	-
Short U	Second try	8/8, 10/1	10/10, 10/1	10/3	-

How to read it
Mateo R. has a first Real or Nonsense score recorded for 4 of 5 vowels and a second try for 3 of those. Still not started: Short O. Has Real or Nonsense but still needs Sort by Vowel Sound: Short I. Every number comes from the table above.

The family note this tracker would produce
"So far this fall Mateo R. has practiced 4 of our 5 short-vowel sounds, with a second, later try already recorded for 3 of them. Short O needed one reminder on the made-up words. Short O has not been started yet." — every fact in it is a row of the table above.



One complete kit for short-vowel CVC decoding: circling real against made-up words, sorting made-up words by vowel sound, and reading rows of made-up words aloud for practice — every student answer is circled or written in pencil, nothing is cut or glued on a student page.

THREE STEPS

1 Meet the five short vowels

Page 6 names all five and pairs each with a real word and a made-up one. Read it with a student before the first worksheet.

2 Pick a format

Three ways to practice: Real or Nonsense (circle it), Sort by Vowel Sound (write it), and Fluency Line Reading (read it aloud, untimed). The chart below says which page.

3 Track it, roll it up, send it home

The answer keys are pages 19 and 20. Date each vowel on the tracker (page 21), roll the class up on page 22, and send the family note home (page 23). A filled example is on page 25.

WHICH PAGE, WHEN

WHEN...	USE...
New to telling real words from made-up ones	Real or Nonsense, pages 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
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Setting up a binder for this file	Binder cover and divider tabs, pages 27–28

Everything inside (29 pages)

- **12 student pages:** 5 Real or Nonsense pages, 2 Sort by Vowel Sound sets and 5 Fluency Line Reading pages
- **120 words practiced:** 20 real words and 100 made-up words, every made-up word checked in code against real-word lists
- **2 answer keys** generated from the same data as the pages, **1 tracker** and **1 class grid**
- **1 family note, 1 small group warm-up, 1 filled example, 1 phrase bank**
- **1 binder cover, 5 divider tabs** and a spine label, cut along the dashed lines

What this is not

Not a standardized or norm-referenced test, a screener, or a clinical tool. Fluency Line Reading is untimed practice, never a scored rate. Page 4 shows how each page works.



MEET THE FIVE SHORT VOWELS



A plain description of each short-vowel sound this file practices, with one real word and one made-up word for each.

VOWEL	WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE	A REAL WORD	A MADE-UP WORD
Short A	The short A sound, the one in a real word like “cat” — mouth open wide.	cat	zab
Short E	The short E sound, the one in a real word like “bed” — mouth halfway open.	bed	zeb
Short I	The short I sound, the one in a real word like “pig” — a quick, flat sound.	pig	zib
Short O	The short O sound, the one in a real word like “dog” — rounded lips.	dog	zob
Short U	The short U sound, the one in a real word like “bug” — said low in the throat.	bug	zub

Using this page

Read a description and its real-word example aloud before the first worksheet on that vowel. The made-up word column shows what Real or Nonsense asks the child to recognize.

Where the sound comes back

Sort by Vowel Sound (pages 12, 13) and Fluency Line Reading (page 14 onward) use these same five sounds; the tracker (page 21) and class grid (page 22) use these same five names as column headers.

A note on the made-up words

Every made-up word in this file is checked in code against a list of real English words before it is used, so it never doubles as a true word by accident.





My name: _____

Date _____



Read each word out loud. Circle REAL if it is a true word. Circle NONSENSE if it is a made-up word.

1

hat

REAL

NONSENSE

2

zaf

REAL

NONSENSE

3

cat

REAL

NONSENSE

4

zad

REAL

NONSENSE

5

zag

REAL

NONSENSE

6

zab

REAL

NONSENSE

7

bat

REAL

NONSENSE

8

mat

REAL

NONSENSE





My name: _____

Date _____



Read each made-up word in the box below. Write it under the short vowel sound you hear.

zel

zim

zak

zum

zil

zom

zem

zal

zul

zol

SHORT A

SHORT E

SHORT I

SHORT O

SHORT U

When you are done

Count the words under each vowel. Each vowel should have 2 words, and every word from the box above should be used one time.



My name: _____

Date _____



Read each row of made-up words out loud, left to right. This is practice reading short-vowel sounds, not a timed test. Check the box after a row is read smoothly.

zav

kak

haz

zaz

☐

kad

kag

kab

kal

☐

hav

kaf

hak

haf

☐

NONSENSE WORD FLUENCY TRACKER



STUDENT

TEACHER

MONTH

VOWEL	TRY	REAL OR NONSENSE (SCORE, DATE)	SORT BY VOWEL (SCORE, DATE)	FLUENCY READING (DATE)	NOTES
Short A	First try				
Short A	Second try				
Short E	First try				
Short E	Second try				
Short I	First try				
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Short O	First try				
Short O	Second try				
Short U	First try				
Short U	Second try				

How to fill this in

Date each cell the day the child does that format for that vowel with no prompt. “First try” and “Second try” are two different occasions, not two attempts at the same worksheet — leave the second row blank until the vowel comes back around. A blank never means wrong, only not tried yet. Answer keys: pages 19 and 20. Filled example: page 25.

THIS MONTH WE ARE FOCUSING ON

When to move a vowel to the class grid

Once a vowel has a Second try recorded here, it has had two separate occasions — move it to the class grid (page 22) and free this page for a vowel that still needs individual tracking.





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STUDENT

TEACHER

MONTH

Mateo R. (an invented student)

Mr. Alavi (invented)

September–October

VOWEL	TRY	REAL OR NONSENSE (SCORE, DATE)	SORT BY VOWEL (SCORE, DATE)	FLUENCY READING (DATE)	NOTES
Short A	First try	7/8, 9/5	9/10, 9/8	9/10	–
Short A	Second try	8/8, 9/19	10/10, 9/19	9/22	–
Short E	First try	6/8, 9/9	8/10, 9/12	9/13	Needed a reminder on made-up words
Short E	Second try	8/8, 9/23	10/10, 9/23	9/24	–
Short I	First try	7/8, 9/16	–	–	–
Short I	Second try	–	–	–	–
Short O	First try	–	–	–	–
Short O	Second try	–	–	–	–
Short U	First try	8/8, 9/22	9/10, 9/22	9/24	–
Short U	Second try	8/8, 10/1	10/10, 10/1	10/3	–

How to read it

Mateo R. has a first Real or Nonsense score recorded for **4 of 5** vowels and a second try for **3** of those. Still not started: Short O. Has Real or Nonsense but still needs Sort by Vowel Sound: Short I. Every number comes from the table above.

The family note this tracker would produce

“So far this fall Mateo R. has practiced 4 of our 5 short-vowel sounds, with a second, later try already recorded for 3 of them. Short E needed one reminder on the made-up words; Short O has not been started yet.” — every fact in it is a row of the table above.

What's next for Mateo

Start Short O (page 10 for Real or Nonsense). Give Short I its Sort by Vowel Sound page (page 12 or 13). Short A, Short E and Short U have two tries recorded and are ready for the class grid (page 22) instead of the individual tracker.





THANK YOU FOR USING THIS RESOURCE

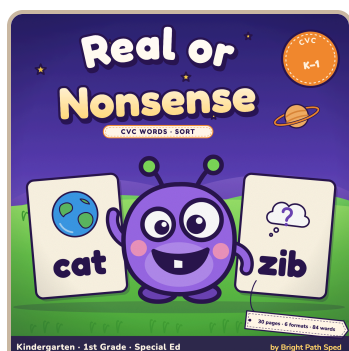
Everything here was built for the teacher who has five short-vowel sounds to practice and a table of children who each need a different amount of it. If this helped, leaving feedback on TPT helps other teachers find it.

Something missing or wrong?

Please use the **Ask a Question** tab on the product page first — every question is read, and a fix to the file is a free update you re-download from **My Purchases**.

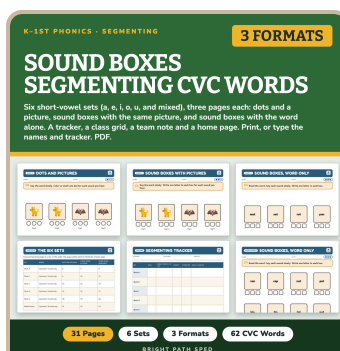
WHAT'S NEXT FROM THIS STORE

The same short-vowel CVC skills as a cut-and-glue sort, a sound-box segmenting page, a long/short vowel sort, and an I Spy find-build-write page.



Real or Nonsense Words Worksheets | CVC Sort, Cut and Glue, Color, Write K-1

The same real-vs-made-up skill as a cut-and-glue sorting activity.



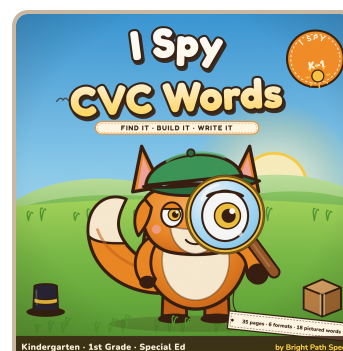
Sound Boxes Segmenting CVC Words Worksheets, K-1st

Segmenting real CVC words into sounds, one sound box at a time.



Long and Short Vowel Sound Sort Worksheets, K-2

Sorting real words by long and short vowel sound, cut and paste.



I Spy CVC Words Phonics Worksheets: Find, Build, Write Short Vowel Words, K-1st

Finding, building and writing real short-vowel CVC words.

Part of the K-2 Phonics and Decoding Skills collection — new products in this collection are added regularly. Click **Follow** on the store page and TPT will email you when they go up.

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