

SHORT VOWELS:

All words with one syllable and one vowel are short.

cat fish pig sun bed

bath deck curb

SNERK: does not include
-ow- words

crow

blow

Words with two syllables;
if the consonant after the
vowel is doubled:

kitten matter blotted

LONG VOWELS:

In one syllable words:

When two vowels walk together the first one says its name , the second is silent:

tea beak coat feed

SNERK: this rule does not include the -oo- ; -ou- or -ue- combinations.

In one syllable words with a vowel and an -e- at the end:

bike cake broke cute

In two syllable words, the first vowel is long when followed by one consonant:

cable maple wafer

Words with oo:

There are three sounds associated with oo

long oo:

pool cool drool fool
mood food poof soon
stool

short oo:

good hood wood
stood wool

long o:

poor door floor

Words with ou:

There are six sounds
associated with ou

ou as ow:

plough bough flour
scour gouge sound pound
round flounder our out
pout shout sour loud ouch

ou as aw:

cough

ou as long u:

through you tour soup
rouge rouse

ou as short u:

rough tough

ou as long o:

dough your pour

ou as short oo:

would could should

I suggest pinning up six sheets of copy paper, each labeled with one of the ou sounds. Each time you encounter an ou word place it on the appropriate page so the kids can learn which are which.

Words with ue:

both vowels make sounds:
the first long and the
second short:
fuel cruel gruel

Words with gh:

words that begin with gh-
sound like hard “g”:
ghost ghetto gherkin

words that end in gh are
either silent:

through thorough fright
sight slight although

or **sounded as “f”**:

cough trough

SNERK: hiccough

Words with “ph”:

sound like “f”:

phone pharmacy graph

morph caliph

**Words with “cial” and
“tial”**

use “cial” after a vowel **so-
cial**

use “tial” after a consonant
essen-tial

SNERK: controversial

Hard C-Soft C

When c is at the beginning of a word it is soft in front of i- e- and y

cell cent centipede

city cider civil

cycle cyber cypress

The vowels a-o-u make the c hard

cat cake cart

cob cold cook

cuff cult cub

When G is at the beginning of a word the vowels e and y make it soft

gel gent gem germ

gypsy gym gyro

SNERK: sometimes I is soft: giraffe giant

The vowels a-I-o-u make g
hard

gate gale gamble

gold golf goat

gift gild gig girl

gulf gut gun

The consonants:

h, l, r, always make g say
its hard sound.