

Phonics: Digraphs and Trigraphs

Spot, choose and sort the special sounds like sh, ch, ai, ee, igh and oa.

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Learning objective: I can read and spell words with common digraphs and trigraphs.

✓ I can spot a digraph in a word ✓ I can choose the right spelling of a sound ✓ I can sort words by sound

1 Spot the special sound Read each word. Underline the digraph or trigraph (two or three letters that make one sound).

ship	chin	moth	ring
rain	feet	night	boat
farm	fork	coin	hair

2 Choose the right sound Try each sound in the gap. Circle the one that makes a real word, then read it.

r ____ n (ai) (oa)	b ____ t (oa) (ee)	l ____ t (ee) (igh)	c ____ (ar) (or)
sh ____ p (ee) (oo)	t ____ th (oo) (ai)	b ____ d (oa) (ir)	c ____ (ow) (ee)

3 Use it in a sentence

1 Choose two words from this sheet. Write a sentence using each one.

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4 Sound sort Read each word. Write it in the column for its vowel sound.

Words: snail green high coat sleep road paint fright tree
soap rain light

ai (rain)	ee (tree)	igh (light)	oa (boat)

5 Which word? Read the sentence with each word. Circle the word that makes sense.

- The ____ is eating grass in the field.
 (A) ship (B) sheep
- Mum cut the cake with a ____.
 (A) night (B) knife
- I put my ____ on because it was cold.
 (A) coat (B) cot
- The ____ was full of stars.
 (A) sky (B) ski

6 Write the word Say what each picture shows. Write the word underneath.













Answer Key

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Question	Answers
1 Spot the special sound	ship – sh ; chin – ch ; moth – th ; ring – ng ; rain – ai ; feet – ee ; night – igh ; boat – oa ; farm – ar ; fork – or ; coin – oi ; hair – air
2 Choose the right sound	r__n → rain (ai); b__t → boat (oa); l__t → light (igh); c__ → car (ar); sh__p → sheep (ee); t__th → tooth (oo); b__d → bird (ir); c__ → cow (ow)
3 Use it in a sentence	1. Any two sensible sentences that use a word from the sheet correctly, starting with a capital letter and ending with a full stop.
4 Sound sort	ai: rain, snail, paint ; ee: green, sleep, tree ; igh: high, fright, light ; oa: coat, road, soap (any order within each column)
5 Which word?	1 B (sheep); 2 B (knife); 3 A (coat); 4 A (sky)
6 Write the word	fish; moon; star; tree; duck; rocket (sounds to look for: sh, oo, ar, ee, ck)

Teaching note: a digraph is two letters that make one sound (sh, ai); a trigraph is three letters that make one sound (igh, air). Some sounds have more than one spelling – for example the sound in ‘rain’ can also be spelt ‘ay’ (play) or ‘a-e’ (cake) – so talk about alternatives once children are secure.