

Useful Groups of Letter Sounds (For Teachers' Reference Only)

Vowel Letter Sounds					
Short vowel letter sounds		Long vowel letter sounds		Other vowel letter sounds	
Short a		Long a		ar	
a	apple	a	patient	ar	arm
Short e		a-e	name	ir	
e	egg	ai	aim	ear	learn
ea	head	ay	day	er	her
Short i		ei	weight	ir	girl
i	ink	Long e		or	work
y	symbol	e	me	our	journey
Short o		ea	eat	ur	turn
a	wash	ee	see	oi	
o	octopus	e-e	eve	oi	coin
Short u		ei-e	receive	oy	boy
u	ugly	ie-e	piece	Short oo	
o	son	Long i		oo	good
oo	blood	ei	height	u	put
ou	young	i	blind	Long oo	
		ie	tie	ew	crew
		i-e	rice	o	do
		y	cry	oe	shoe
		Long o		oo	moon
		o	motor	ue	blue
		oa	boat	u-e	rule
		oe	toe	or	
		o-e	nose	al	ball
		ow	snow	au	cause
		Long u		aw	saw
		ew	new	or	short
		u	music	ough	bought
		ue	due	ou	
		u-e	cute	ou	loud
				ow	cow
				schwa	
				a	ago
				er	water
				or	doctor

Consonant Letter Sounds												
Consonant letter sounds			Consonant digraph letter sounds				Consonant blend letter sounds					
	Initial	Ending		Initial	Medial	Ending		Initial	Ending			
b	b <u>e</u> ar	cr <u>a</u> b	ch	ch <u>o</u> ose	ex <u>ch</u> ange	se <u>ar</u> ch	bl	b <u>l</u> og				
c (hard)	c <u>a</u> re	mus <u>i</u> c	ch (the letter sound "k")	ch <u>a</u> racter	e <u>ch</u> o	stom <u>ach</u>	cl	c <u>l</u> ass				
c (soft)	c <u>e</u> ll	onc <u>e</u>					dw	d <u>w</u> arf				
d	d <u>e</u> lay	fo <u>o</u> d	ch (the letter sound "sh")	ch <u>e</u> f	m <u>a</u> chine		fl	f <u>l</u> at				
f	f <u>i</u> nd	bee <u>f</u>					pl	p <u>l</u> ease				
g (hard)	g <u>o</u> ose	dig	sh	sh <u>a</u> re	f <u>ash</u> ion	rub <u>bi</u> sh	sl	s <u>l</u> im				
g (soft)	g <u>e</u> ntle	lar <u>g</u> e	ck			att <u>a</u> ck	br	b <u>r</u> eak				
h	h <u>u</u> g		gh (the letter sound "f")			laugh	cr	c <u>r</u> ime				
j	j <u>a</u> r		ph (the letter sound "f")	ph <u>o</u> ne	eleph <u>a</u> nt	graph	dr	d <u>r</u> aw				
k	ke <u>ep</u>	thin <u>k</u>	sc (the letter sound "s" – unvoiced)	Sc <u>i</u> ence	adol <u>e</u> sc <u>e</u> nt		fr	f <u>r</u> ont				
l	l <u>i</u> fe	gir <u>l</u>	th (voiced)	this	fath <u>e</u> r	with	gl	g <u>l</u> ad				
m	m <u>o</u> bile	ro <u>o</u> m	th (unvoiced)	thin <u>k</u>	noth <u>i</u> ng	earth	gr	g <u>r</u> eat				
n	n <u>u</u> mer	cart <u>o</u> on	ng			ring	pr	p <u>r</u> etty				
p	p <u>i</u> ck	kee <u>p</u>	Consonant trigraph letter sounds				tr	t <u>r</u> ip				
r	r <u>a</u> re	has					sc (the letter sound "sk")	scan				
s (voiced)		bus					sk	sk <u>i</u> n	ask			
s (unvoiced)	s <u>a</u> le	hit					sm	s <u>m</u> art				
t	t <u>i</u> cket	believe					sn	s <u>n</u> ack				
v	v <u>i</u> sit		sch (the letter sound "sh")	s <u>ch</u> edule (the British pronunciation)			sp	s <u>p</u> eak	crisp			
w	w <u>e</u> b		tch		k <u>i</u> tchen	cat <u>ch</u>	st	s <u>t</u> op	last			
x (the letter sound "ks")	ex <u>i</u> t	box					sw	s <u>w</u> itch				
y	y <u>e</u> s						tw	t <u>w</u> ist		ft		left
z	z <u>o</u> o	qu <u>i</u> z					ld			lf		gold
							lk			lm		shelf
							lp			lt		milk
							lt			mp		film
							mp			nd		help
							nd			nt		belt
							nk			ct		jump
							nt			xt		mind
			ct			chr (the letter sound "cr")	Chr <u>ist</u> mas	bank				
			xt			fth		aunt				
			chr (the letter sound "cr")			lth		collect				
			fth			mpt		next				
			lth			sch (the letter sound "sk")	sch <u>o</u> ol					
			mpt			scr	scr <u>e</u> en					
			sch (the letter sound "sk")			shr	shr <u>i</u> mp					
			scr			spl	spl <u>a</u> sh					
			shr			spr	spr <u>a</u> y					
			spl			str	str <u>e</u> et					
			spr			thr	thr <u>o</u> w					
			str			thw	thw <u>a</u> rt					
			thr									
			thw									

Letter sounds that junior secondary students may have become familiar with by the start of KS3

Letter sounds that may be new or problematic to junior secondary students

Useful Groups of Letter Sounds (For Teachers' Reference Only)

Other Useful Groups of Letter Sounds			
Consonant-and-vowel digraphs			
The "sh" letter sound		The "ze" letter sound	
-ci-	special	-si-	television
-ti-	action	-su-	casual
Consonant-and-vowel trigraphs – the "k" and "g" letter sounds			
-que	cheque		
-gue	dialogue		
Silent letters – Silent b, Silent h, Silent gh, Silent k and Silent l			
Silent b	climb	Silent k	know
Silent h	ghost	Silent l	half
Silent gh	high		
Prefixes and suffixes			
Prefixes		Suffixes	
ad- anti- be- de- dis- en- ex- im- inter- mis- pre- post- re- un-	<u>ad</u> join <u>anti</u> -virus <u>be</u> little <u>de</u> crease <u>dis</u> count <u>en</u> able <u>ex</u> port <u>im</u> possible <u>inter</u> personal <u>mis</u> behave <u>pre</u> pay <u>post</u> -reading <u>re</u> cycle <u>un</u> usual	-able -al -ance -ar -ary -ate -ation -dom -en -ent -er -ese -ess -ful -fy -ial -ian -ic -ine -ish -ist -ive -less -like -ly -ment -or -ory -ship -some -ure -ward -y	comfortable musical appearance linear disciplinary fortunate conversation wisdom frighten dependent driver Chinese actress playful simplify industrial librarian electronic imagine stylish artist creative careless lifelike friendly movement sailor advisory friendship troublesome temperature forward sporty

Magic -e			
The addition of "e" after a vowel followed by a consonant changes the vowel sound from a short vowel sound to a long vowel sound.	fat rid not cut	fate ride note cute	
Silent -e			
The letter "e" at the end of some words does not have any effect on the preceding vowel sound and is itself not pronounced.	come give some		
-s endings			
The ending consonants "ch", "sh", "x", "ge", "s(e)", "ce" form a syllable with "(-e)s".	-ch -sh -x -ge -s -se -ce	matches finishes boxes messages misses increases distances	
-ed endings			
a) The ending consonant "d" forms a syllable with "ed" to produce a "ded" sound.	decided	b) The ending consonant "t" forms a syllable with "ed" to produce a "ted" sound.	repeated
c) The "ed" at the end of verbs ending in "k", "p", "s", "ce", "x", "sh", "ch", "gh", "f" makes a "t" sound.	-k shocked -p skipped -s dressed -ce announced -x mixed -sh washed -ch reached -gh laughed -f stuffed	d) The "ed" at the end of verbs ending in other consonant and vowel sounds makes a "d" sound.	tagged called worried formed happened ordered snowed damaged arrived quizzed