TEACHER GUIDE · WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16 2026

2A Word Sorting Activity and Game

Read short words, find their spelling patterns, and sort them. Then use the same cards for a partner memory game.

Print and prepare

Print at 100% on Letter paper, single sided. Cut on the borders. Back cards with dark paper so words cannot show through in the memory game.

Pages	What to print
2	Game directions for the table
3–6	One set of sorting mats per group
7–8	28 core word cards per group
9–11	Optional challenge cards • activity sheet • teacher key

Teach and sort for about 15 minutes

1 Show 2 or 3 taught patterns. Model: touch the letters, say the sounds, blend, and read the whole word.

2 Give pupils a small mixed set. Each pupil reads a word, points to its pattern, and places it on the matching mat.

3 Ask "How do you know?" Put unsure words on Read again. Help pupils blend and return each word to a pattern mat.

4 Add the remaining patterns when ready. Finish with the game on page 2 and/or the independent activity on page 10.

Choose the right amount of support

Support: Use 6–8 cards and 2 patterns. Read together. Allow pointing or placing instead of writing. After a first try, mark a digraph or both a and e.

Core: Use 28 cards across short rounds. Extend: Add page 9, explain the consonant blend, or say a sentence using a word.

Spelling notes for adults

Sort by spelling: ai, ay and a_e all spell long a here. The a_e words are CVCe with silent final e. Digraphs mean letter and sound counts differ: day has two sounds; rain has three. Core words have no consonant blends.

GAME DIRECTIONS · 2 TO 4 PLAYERS

Pattern Pair Hunt

Find two words with the same spelling pattern.

1 Place the word cards face down. Leave the pattern mats where everyone can see them.

2 Take turns. Turn over two cards and read both words. You may ask for help.

3 Point to the spelling pattern in each word.

4 Same pattern? Keep the pair and take one more turn.

5 Different patterns? Turn both cards back over. The next player has a turn.

6 Keep playing until all pairs are found. Count your pairs, or work together to find them all.

A pair	Not a pair
rain + mail Both have ai.	rain + day ai and ay are different.

Match the letters you see, not just the sound you hear.

A short first game

Use these 14 cards: rain, mail, day, say, ship, shop, chip, chat, thin, bath, duck, sock, cake, game. There are 7 pairs to find. Later, use all 28 core cards.

Need an easier start? Use just 4 pairs and leave the cards face up. No one loses a turn for asking for help.

Word sorting mats

Read the word. Find its pattern. Place the card.

ai

long a

ay

long a

Word sorting mats

Read the word. Find its pattern. Place the card.

sh

two letters • one sound

ch

two letters • one sound

Word sorting mats

Read the word. Find its pattern. Place the card.

th

quiet th or voiced th

ck

two letters • one /k/ sound

Word sorting mats

Read the word. Find its pattern. Place the card.

a_e

a and final e work together • long a

Read again

Keep a word here until you can read and sort it.

Core word cards one

Cut on the borders. Mix with page 8. Read before sorting.

this	thin
fish	sock
tape	pay
say	dish
chin	shop
cake	chip
that	much

Keep the backs plain for Pattern Pair Hunt.

Core word cards two

Cut on the borders. Mix with page 7. Read before sorting.

game	mail
chat	sail
bath	name
day	lock
ray	ship
neck	rain
tail	duck

Keep the backs plain for Pattern Pair Hunt.

Challenge word cards

Optional • Cut and sort these words with consonant blends.

chest	clock
snail	brave
tray	snack
thump	paint
plate	play
shelf	fresh
tenth	lunch

Keep the backs plain for Pattern Pair Hunt.

INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY

My word sort

Name _____ Date _____

Read the words. Write one word in each row.
Circle the spelling pattern in the word you write.

wish lake may back
then hail rich

Pattern	My word
ai	
ay	
sh	
ch	
th	
ck	
a_e	

For a_e, circle the a and the final e.

Choose a word. Say a sentence. You may write it too.

_____

TEACHER ONLY

Word sort answer key

Keep this page out of sight during an independent first try. All seven categories are spelling patterns.

Pattern	Core cards Pages 7 and 8	Challenge cards Page 9	Activity Page 10
ai	rain, mail, sail, tail	paint, snail	hail
ay	day, say, pay, ray	play, tray	may
sh	ship, shop, fish, dish	shelf, fresh	wish
ch	chip, chat, chin, much	chest, lunch	rich
th	thin, bath, this, that	thump, tenth	then
ck	duck, sock, lock, neck	snack, clock	back
a_e	cake, game, name, tape	plate, brave	lake

Check the pattern marks

Circle ai in hail; ay in may; sh in wish; ch in rich; th in then; ck in back. In lake, circle a and e. The k sits between them. Read then with voiced th. The th mat takes both quiet th (thin, bath) and voiced th (this, that).

What to notice

Reading and sorting are separate skills. A pupil may spot a letter pattern without decoding the whole word. Ask for both. For long a, listen for the sound and then ask which spelling is actually on the card.

A digraph represents one sound. A consonant blend keeps its separate sounds: shelf has /sh/ /e/ /l/ /f/. Silent e is not an extra spoken sound. The challenge cards include CCVC and CVCC sound shapes.