

New sound: air

79

Lesson 79 of 83 (ages 3-6) / 73 of 77 (age 7+) · Vowel Teams & Tricky Words · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

GOAL

Your child can say /air/ when they see "air", and hear it in words like hair.

WHY IT MATTERS

"air" is 3 letters that make ONE sound. Seeing them as one unit stops your child reading the letters separately, and unlocks words like hair, fair, pair.

YOU'LL NEED

- The practice sheet for this lesson (worksheet.pdf) and a pencil or crayon.
- The lesson page on a phone or tablet, for the sounds and games.

LESSON FLOW about 10 minutes

1 min

Warm up

Quick flash of the last sounds: write "ear", "oi", "ow" on paper, point, and your child says each sound.

SAY

"What sound is this? And this one?"

2 min

Listen

Play /air/ on the lesson page three times. Your child watches your mouth and copies.

SAY

"This is /air/. Watch my mouth: 'eh' then add 'r'."

2 min

Show how

Show the letters "air" and the action: Toss hair and say air-air-air. Then tap the words on the lesson page.

SAY

"When I see air, I say /air/. hair: /air/ hair!"

"Two letters, one sound. They're best friends: they always stick together."

2 min

Do it together

Sound hunt: find 3 things at home with /air/. Then do the trace-and-write part of the practice sheet. Read together: hair, fair, pair, chair, stair, air.

2 min

Play

Play the games on the lesson page: hear /air/ and tap its letters, then find where the sound is in a word.

1 min

Wrap up

Ask your child to teach the sound and action to someone else in the family.

SAY

"Can you show Grandma our new sound?"

USE WITH THIS LESSON

- **This lesson online (listening + games)**
phonicademy.com/plan/session/sound-air
- **Printable: Diphthongs Worksheet — R-Patterns (Free PDF)**
phonicademy.com/printables/diphthongs-worksheet-r-patterns
- **Read: Vowel Teams List (Free PDF): ai, ay, ea, ee, oa, oo**
phonicademy.com/blog/vowel-teams-list
- **The “air” sound — full page**
phonicademy.com/phonemes/air
- **Printable: Vowel Sounds Chart (Free PDF)**
phonicademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-vowel-sounds-chart
- **Read: 20 Vowel Sounds Chart (Free PDF) with Examples**
phonicademy.com/blog/vowel-sounds-chart

HEAR IT, FIND IT

Say the sound (not the letter name). Your child points to the letters. Tick first-try answers.

#	SAY / SHOW	CHOICES	ANSWER	
1	Say /air/	air, ear, oi	air	☐
2	Say /ear/	ear, air, oi	ear	☐
3	Say /oi/	oi, air, ear	oi	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

- Says the sound too quickly to hear.** -> /air/ can be stretched: hold it like a long note, airairairair, then let go.
- Reads the letters one by one (a-i-r).** -> Put one finger under both letters at once: "these two make one sound".
- Mixes up /air/ and /ear/.** -> Easy to mix up — "hear" and "hair" only differ in this one sound.

TOO HARD? MAKE IT EASIER

Only do the listening parts today: hear it, say it, find it in pictures. Save the writing for tomorrow.

TOO EASY? MAKE IT HARDER

Read these words and then write two of them from memory: hair, fair, pair, chair, stair, air.

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

- ☐ Says /air/ when shown "air".
- ☐ Hears /air/ in a word you say (hair).
- ☐ Writes "air" as one sound unit.

Date: _____

Colour in the stars:



Notes: _____