

New sound: qu

53

Lesson 53 of 83 (ages 3-6) / 47 of 77 (age 7+) · Digraphs & Blends · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

GOAL

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

WHY IT MATTERS

"qu" is 2 letters that make ONE sound. Seeing them as one unit stops your child reading the letters separately, and unlocks words like queen, quiz, quit.

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 "z", "y", "x" on paper, point, and your child says each sound.

SAY

"What sound is this? And this one?"

2 min

Listen

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

SAY

"This is /qu/. Watch my mouth: quick 'kw' sound."

2 min

Show how

Show the letters "qu" and the action: Make a duck beak with your hand and say qu-qu-qu. Then tap the words on the lesson page.

SAY

"When I see qu, I say /qu/. queen: /qu/ queen!"
"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 /qu/. Then do the trace-and-write part of the practice sheet. Read together: quiz, quit, quick, quest, quack, quilt.

2 min

Play

Play the games on the lesson page: hear /qu/ and tap its letters.

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-qu
- **Printable: Digraphs Cheat Sheet (PDF)**
phonicademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-digraphs
- **Read: Consonant Blends: Full List, How to Teach Them + Free PDF**
phonicademy.com/blog/consonant-blends-list
- **The "qu" sound — full page**
phonicademy.com/phonemes/qu
- **Read: Digraphs List (Free PDF): ch, sh, th, ph, wh, ng**
phonicademy.com/blog/digraphs-ch-sh-th
- **Printable: Digraph Flashcards: sh, ch, th, wh, ck, ng (PDF)**
phonicademy.com/printables/flashcards-digraphs

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 /qu/	qu, z, y	qu	☐
2	Say /z/	z, s, qu	z	☐
3	Say /y/	y, qu, z	y	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

Adds "uh" to the sound (quuh).	->	Keep it short and clipped: whisper it. /qu/, not quuh. Extra "uh" makes blending harder.
Reads the letters one by one (q-u).	->	Put one finger under both letters at once: "these two make one sound".
Forgets the sound the next day.	->	Normal! Repeat the action and the keyword daily for a week: the action is the memory hook.

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: quiz, quit, quick, quest, quack, quilt.

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

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

Date: _____

Colour in the stars:



Notes: _____