

# New sound: u\_e

72

Lesson 72 of 92 (ages 3-6) / 66 of 86 (age 7+) · Vowel Teams &amp; Tricky Words · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

**GOAL**

**Your child can say /u\_e/ when they see "u\_e", and hear it in words like cube.**

**WHY IT MATTERS**

"u\_e" is 3 letters that make ONE sound. Seeing them as one unit stops your child reading the letters separately, and unlocks words like cute, cube, mule.

**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 "oa", "igh", "ee" on paper, point, and your child says each sound.

SAY

*"What sound is this? And this one?"*

2 min

**Listen**

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

SAY

*"This is /u\_e/. Watch my mouth: start like 'y', then round the lips into 'oo'."*

2 min

**Show how**

Show the letters "u\_e" and the action: Point to a friend and say yoo — like the word 'you'. Then tap the words on the lesson page.

SAY

*"When I see u\_e, I say /u\_e/. cube: /u\_e/ cube!"*  
*"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 /u\_e/. Then do the trace-and-write part of the practice sheet.

2 min

**Play**

Play the games on the lesson page: hear /u\_e/ 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)**  
[phonicsacademy.com/plan/session/sound-u-e](https://phonicsacademy.com/plan/session/sound-u-e)
- **Printable: Vowel Sounds Chart (Free PDF)**  
[phonicsacademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-vowel-sounds-chart](https://phonicsacademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-vowel-sounds-chart)
- **Read: 20 Vowel Sounds Chart (Free PDF) with Examples**  
[phonicsacademy.com/blog/vowel-sounds-chart](https://phonicsacademy.com/blog/vowel-sounds-chart)
- **The "u\_e" sound — full page**  
[phonicsacademy.com/phonemes/u-e](https://phonicsacademy.com/phonemes/u-e)
- **Read: Vowel Teams List (Free PDF): ai, ay, ea, ee, oa, oo**  
[phonicsacademy.com/blog/vowel-teams-list](https://phonicsacademy.com/blog/vowel-teams-list)
- **Printable: Vowel Team Flashcards: ai, ee, oa, oo and more (PDF)**  
[phonicsacademy.com/printables/flashcards-vowel-teams](https://phonicsacademy.com/printables/flashcards-vowel-teams)

## 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 /u_e/ (as in cube) | u_e, oa, igh | u_e    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Say /oa/               | oa, o, u_e   | oa     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Say /igh/              | igh, u_e, oa | igh    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

|                                             |                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Says the sound too quickly to hear.</b>  | -> /u_e/ can be stretched: hold it like a long note, u_eu_eu_eu_e, then let go.               |
| <b>Reads the letters one by one (u_-e).</b> | -> Put one finger under both letters at once: "these two make one sound".                     |
| <b>Forgets the sound the next day.</b>      | -> 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

Ask your child to think of 5 words with the /u\_e/ sound, and say where the sound is: start, middle or end.

## HOW DID IT GO?

### MY CHILD CAN...

- ☐ Says /u\_e/ when shown "u\_e".
- ☐ Hears /u\_e/ in a word you say (cube).
- ☐ Writes "u\_e" as one sound unit.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Colour in the stars:



Notes: \_\_\_\_\_