

New sound: y

45

Lesson 45 of 83 (ages 3-6) / 39 of 77 (age 7+) · Letter Sounds · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

GOAL

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

WHY IT MATTERS

Every letter sound is a building block. Once your child knows /y/, they can use it in every word it appears in: yes, yam, yet.

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 "x", "w", "v" on paper, point, and your child says each sound.

SAY | "What sound is this? And this one?"

2 min

Listen

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

SAY | "This is /y/. Watch my mouth: tongue near roof, voice it."

2 min

Show how

Show the letter "y" and the action: Eat a yummy yogurt and say y-y-y. Then tap the words on the lesson page.

SAY | "When I see y, I say /y/. yes: /y/ yes!"

2 min

Do it together

Sound hunt: find 3 things at home with /y/. Then do the trace-and-write part of the practice sheet. Read together: yes, yam, yet, yum, yap, yell.

2 min

Play

Play the games on the lesson page: hear /y/ 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-y
- **Printable: 43 Letter Sound Flashcards (PDF)**
phonicsacademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-flashcards-43
- **Read: Letter Sounds vs Letter Names: Which Should You Teach First?**
phonicsacademy.com/blog/letter-sounds-vs-letter-names
- **The "y" sound — full page**
phonicsacademy.com/phonemes/y
- **Read: Phonemes List (Free PDF): 43 English Letter Sounds with Examples**
phonicsacademy.com/blog/43-english-phonemes-list
- **Game: Letter Trace**
phonicsacademy.com/play/letter-trace

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 /y/	y, x, w	y	☐
2	Say /x/	x, y, w	x	☐
3	Say /w/	w, y, x	w	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

Says the sound too quickly to hear. -> /y/ can be stretched: hold it like a long note, yyyy, then let go.

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: yes, yam, yet, yum, yap, yell.

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

- ☐ Says /y/ when shown "y".
- ☐ Hears /y/ in a word you say (yes).
- ☐ Writes "y" starting in the right place.

Date: _____

Colour in the stars:



Notes: _____