

New sound: zh

90

Lesson 90 of 92 (ages 3-6) / 84 of 86 (age 7+) · Vowel Teams & Tricky Words · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

GOAL

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

WHY IT MATTERS

"zh" is 2 letters that make ONE sound. Seeing them as one unit stops your child reading the letters separately, and unlocks words like treasure, measure, pleasure.

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 "ure", "air", "ear" on paper, point, and your child says each sound.

SAY

"What sound is this? And this one?"

2 min

Listen

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

SAY

"This is /zh/. Watch my mouth: like 'sh', but with your voice on — lips pushed forward."

2 min

Show how

Show the letters "zh" and the action: Hold a treasure chest and say zh-zh-zh. Then tap the words on the lesson page.

SAY

"When I see zh, I say /zh/. treasure: /zh/ treasure!"

"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 /zh/. Then do the trace-and-write part of the practice sheet.

2 min

Play

Play the games on the lesson page: hear /zh/ 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-zh
- **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
- **The “zh” sound — full page**
phonicademy.com/phonemes/zh
- **Read: Vowel Teams List (Free PDF): ai, ay, ea, ee, oa, oo**
phonicademy.com/blog/vowel-teams-list
- **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 /zh/	zh, sh, ure	zh	☐
2	Say /ure/	ure, zh, air	ure	☐
3	Say /air/	air, ear, zh	air	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

- | | |
|--|--|
| Says the sound too quickly to hear. | -> /zh/ can be stretched: hold it like a long note, zhzhzhzh, then let go. |
| Reads the letters one by one (z-h). | -> Put one finger under both letters at once: "these two make one sound". |
| Mixes up /zh/ and /sh/. | -> Same pushed-out lips — the zh in "treasure" just adds a buzz from your voice box. |

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 /zh/ sound, and say where the sound is: start, middle or end.

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

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

Date: _____

Colour in the stars:



Notes: _____