ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Beginning, middle, and ending sounds

Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you sound out a whole word from start to finish and spell it correctly. Changing one sound, like the middle of cat, makes a different word, so every sound in the word matters. Listening for the beginning, middle, and ending sounds is what turns guessing at a word into actually reading it.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Find the beginning, middle, and ending sounds in 'cat'

SOLUTION

Say the word slowly: cat.

Listen for each sound in order: kuh at the start, ah in the middle, tuh at the end.

So the sounds are kuh, ah, tuh.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Find the beginning, middle, and ending sounds in 'dog'

SOLUTION

Say the word slowly: dog.

Listen for each sound in order: duh at the start, oh in the middle, guh at the end.

So the sounds are duh, oh, guh.

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Practice questions

1 Say the word 'sun' slowly. What are its beginning, middle, and ending sounds?

- **A** sss, uh, nnn
- **B** sss, ah, nnn
- **C** nnn, uh, sss
- **D** sss, uh, muh

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2 What is the first sound in the word 'fish'?

- **A** sss
- **B** fff
- **C** mmm
- **D** shh

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3 **Sound out the word 'map' from start to finish. List the three sounds in order.**

- **A** mmm, ah, puh
- **B** mmm, uh, puh
- **C** puh, ah, mmm
- **D** mmm, ah, tuh

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4 **What sound is in the middle of the word 'pig'?**

- **A** uh
- **B** ah
- **C** ih
- **D** eh

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5 Listen to the word 'hen'. Which sounds do you hear first, in the middle, and last?

- **A** huh, ah, nnn
- **B** nnn, eh, huh
- **C** huh, eh, nnn
- **D** huh, eh, muh

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6 What is the last sound in the word 'cup'?

- **A** tuh
- **B** kuh
- **C** buh
- **D** puh

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7 Take the word 'cat'. Change its beginning sound from kuh to buh. What word do you get?

- **A** cat
- **B** bat
- **C** mat
- **D** hat

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8 Break the word 'bed' into its three sounds.

- **A** buh, uh, duh
- **B** duh, eh, buh
- **C** buh, eh, duh
- **D** buh, eh, tuh

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9 Which of these words starts with the same sound as 'sun'?

- **A** sock
- **B** moon
- **C** fish
- **D** top

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10 Say the word 'frog' slowly, all the way to the end. What is its ending sound?

- **A** fuh
- **B** ruh
- **C** guh
- **D** duh

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ANSWER KEY

1. sss, uh, nnn

2. fff

3. mmm, ah, puh

4. ih

5. huh, eh, nnn

6. puh

7. bat

8. buh, eh, duh

9. sock

10. guh

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