



# Start Smart – Syllables

A Long Vowel First, Syllabic Phonics Program

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DEDICATION

To Gerry.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank God first.

Don, Gerry, homeschool friends who tested the program.

Last but not least, family.

Love you all!

# 1 INTRODUCTION

How to teach program, go at student's pace.

Focus on sounds and syllables, keys to good reading, based on brain research and my over 20 years of literacy tutoring experience. Long vowels easier to blend, it is also easier to remember their sound because their sound is also their name, except for long u, which will be covered in later in the program.

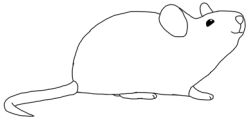
Key is to sound out every sound from left to right, keep practicing until this is mastered. Games and white board for practice.

## 2 LONG VOWELS TEAMS

We start with long vowels, single vowels are long when they end in a word or a syllable . We also will teach long vowel letter teams. Easiest to blend, discriminate, remember, quotes. How to teach them, how to blend, more on blending in appendix 1. Use charts, overlearn sounds and syllables with the help of charts. My one page charts, my 2 letter vowel team charts, build with cards, use white board, again, see blending appendix if problems, oral blending and easy blends, the following words and syllables are easiest to blend:

ray, may, me, nee, ne, lee, le , whole slablary l, m, n, r, but skip u for n

## Step 1: L, M, long E as EE and E



**M, m**

[lighthouse] **L, l**



**E, e: ee, e**

Real Words:

**me lee**

**eel**

Nonsense words:

**mee le**

Say: “These are the first sounds we will learn. L says “ul,” M says “mmm,” and e at the end of a word says its long sound of E, which is also its name. Long e can be spelled with a single e or a double ee. You need to sound out the sounds of the letters from left to right to make words. Try to sound out the real words and then the nonsense words these letters make” Note: If your student has trouble blending sounds to make these words, see appendix 1, [Blending, page X](#).

## Step 2: R, long E as EE, EA, and E

[rainbow] **R, r**



**E, e: ee, e**

Nonsense words:

**re ree rea**

Review Words:

**me eel lee**

Teach the sound of R and the new pattern of long e as ea. Note: If your student has trouble remembering the sounds of the letters previously learned, allow them to use 40L's one page vowel and consonant charts. A copy is available at the back of the book, page X, and they are free to print online at: [\[make a page of Smart Start Syllables, link to main page, also direct file\]](#)

## Step 3: N, long A as A, AI and AY

9 N, n



A, a: ai, ay

Real Words:

a ail aim nay

ray lay may

Nonsense Words:

la ma ra na ain

nee een eem ean eam

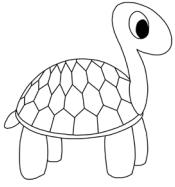
Review Words:

lee me eel

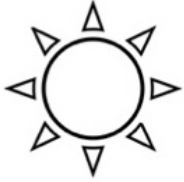
Teach the sound of N and the long sound of A, which is also its name. Long A can be spelled with a single A or AI within the word and AY at the end of the word. The syllables that end in an a will be long as in ma-ker or la-dy.



Step 4: T, S



**T, t**



**S, s**

Real Words:

**tee tea say**

**see sea eat**

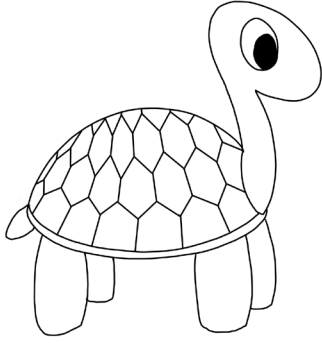
Nonsense Words:

**ta te sa se**

**eet ait tay**

Review Words:

**lee me eel**



Exercise: Help Tommy Turtle  
find the matching words!

1. lee

2. may

3. een

4. ray

5. eet

6. re

ma

ean

ree

eat

le

ra

Say, "Match the words in each column that have the exact same sound. They will be spelled differently but have the same sound. You can write the matching number or draw lines to connect the words that match. Most of these words are nonsense words or syllables, but some are real words." Note: These worksheets **are free to print at X**.



Fluency Drills: Watch your progress soar,  
perfect practice makes perfect!

Fluency Tracking Group 1:

**ray see aim**

**nay eat me**

**tea lay ail sea**

Fluency Tracking Group 2:

**tay nee ain**

**ra ean mee**

**tee se ait te**

Time the with the first group of 10 words. Count the number of words correct and the time in seconds it takes to read these 10 words. Then, give the student a few minute break before reading and timing the next group of words. Record accuracy and time on the fluency tracking sheets, [appendix X, page X](#). There are detailed instructions for fluency tracking in this appendix. The student should focus on accuracy, speed will come with time and accurate practice.

Step 5: B



**B, b**

Real Words:

**be bee bay**

Nonsense Words:

**ba bea aib**

Review Words:

**lee tea say me eel**

**see eat ray aim**

**may ail nay**



Did you know that aliens can't read?

Help the alien read the sentences.

Real sentences:

**See a bee.**

**See a sea.**

Nonsense sentences:

**Re a nea hee.**

**Ne, ain nea.**

Some students may start to guess from context when reading sentences and stories, skip the real sentences if the student starts to guess from predicting the sentences. Keep practicing the sounds and blending until sounding out words and sentences is easier than guessing. You can use 40L's one page vowel and consonant chart to help learn the sounds, and the vowel chart to learn the 2 letter vowel teams. [\[link to print, also in back of book, appendix x, page x.\]](#) When guessing stops, you can add back in sentences and stories.

## Step 6: G, O

**G, g**

**O, o: oa, oe, ow**

**Real Words:**

**go lo no so oat**  
**roe row bow sow**

**Nonsense Words:**

**ro ree rea**  
**opa noe soe**

**Review Words:**

**see be eel eat bay**  
**me aim bee nay**

Note: the letter team ow can also say "ow" as in how or cow. If your student is curious, you can mention this, but focus on the long o sound of ow for now.



Help the alien read more sentences. The aliens need help to learn to read English. Our planet is depending on you!

Real sentences:

**Go see.**

**Go see a pea.**

**Pay a pea.**

Nonsense sentences:

**Tay a noe aib.**

**Nee a ro oap.**

Step 7: H



H, h

Real Words:

he hay

Nonsense Words:

ha hee hea

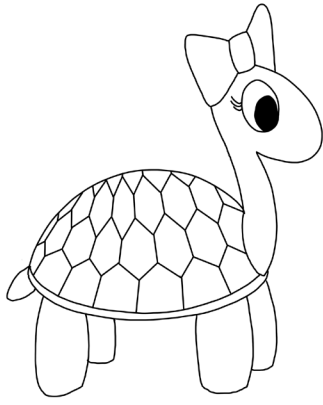
Review Words:

go see no be sea

bay so oat low

me aim sow ray





Exercise: Help Tammy Turtle  
find the matching words!

1. sea

2. hay

3. eep

4. ray

5. no

6. row

roe

eap

see

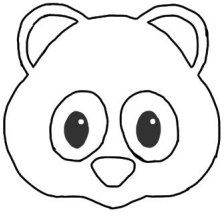
eat

roe

ha

Say, "Match the words in each column that have the exact same sound. They will be spelled differently but have the same sound. You can write the matching number or draw lines to connect the words that match. Most of these words are nonsense words or syllables, but some are real words." Note: These worksheets [are free to print at X](#).

Step 8: P



**P, p**

Real Words:

**pea pay**

Nonsense Words:

**pa aip**

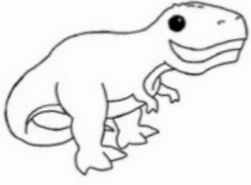
Review Words:

**so bay lo me eat**

**see go oat row**

**he aim sow hay**

Step 9: D



**D, d**

Real Words:

**aid day doe**

Nonsense Words:

**da de dee dea**

**oad eed ead**

Review Words:

**go eat lo be eel**

**pay so oat row**

**pea aim bow nay**

Step 10: W



W, w

Real Words:

**we way woe**

Nonsense Words:

**wa wo ra ro**

**wee ree**

Review Words:

**tea doe be lee**

**hay no oat sow**

**sea aid bow day**



Help the alien read more sentences. It is getting better at reading but still needs help.

Real sentences:

**We see a bee.**

**So, go see a doe.**

Nonsense sentences:

**Re wee ro nee.**

**Tay eet ne oap.**

## Step 11: F

[fire]

**F, f**

Real Words:

**fee fay oaf foe**

Nonsense Words:

**fa fe fo eef**

**fea aif**

Review Words:

**pea woe me eel**

**way no oat low**

**see aid bow doe**



Fluency Drills: Watch your progress soar,  
perfect practice makes perfect!

Fluency Tracking Group 1:

**10 words**

Fluency Tracking Group 2:

**10 words**

Time the with the first group of 10 words. Count the number of words correct and the time in seconds it takes to read these 10 words. Then, give the student a few minute break before reading and timing the next group of words. Record accuracy and time on the fluency tracking sheets, [appendix X, page X](#). There are detailed instructions for fluency tracking in this appendix. The student should focus on accuracy, speed will come with time and accurate practice.

## Step 12: I

[ice cream]

**I, i: ie, igh**

Real Words:

**lie nigh tie high**  
**hie I sigh pie die**

Nonsense Words:

**si sie migh nie**  
**ligh bigh righ figh**

Review Words:

**eat roe we see**  
**fay no oaf low**  
**fee aim bow foe**

The gh is not silent in igh, instead, it is a team of letters making the I long and say its name. Also, ie can have other sounds, especially in longer words, but teach and focus on its long I sound for now. You can tell the student that ie will say I in short words.



[alien] Help the alien read more sentences.

Real sentences:

**We see a leaf.**

**Go see a foe.**

**I go so high!**

**No way, we go row.**

Nonsense sentences:

**Fe fi fo, eef !**

**Re migh ro ead.**

## Step 13: J

[jet] **J, j**

Real Words:

**Jo jay Joe**

Nonsense Words:

**ja je ji jee**

**jea jie jigh**

Review Words:

**nigh eat tie sea**

**day no oaf sigh**

**high aim low foe**

Remember, blend every sound from left to right with no guessing!

## Step 14: K

[kite]

**K, k**

Real Words:

**Kay**

Nonsense Words:

**ka ke ko ko**

**kee kea koe**

**kie kigh**

Review Words:

**eat aid lay tie sea**

**may Jo oat sigh**

**die jay sow Joe**

[boy turtle]

Exercise: Help Tommy Turtle find  
the matching words!

Step 15: Y

[yield sign] **Y, y**

Real Words:

**yo-yo ye yo yay!**

Nonsense Words:

**ya yi yee yea**

**yoe yie yigh**

Review Words:

**high pea pie tee**

**day go jay sigh**

**Kay aim row Joe**

## Step 15: V

[vase]

**V, v**

Real Words:

**vie**

Nonsense Words:

**va ve vo vi vee**

**vea vay voa**

**voe vigh**

Review Words:

**tea sigh pie ye**

**may no yay sigh**

**oat aim low row**

[balloon pic] Fluency Drills: Watch your progress soar, perfect practice makes perfect!

Fluency Tracking Group 1:

**10 words**

Fluency Tracking Group 2:

**10 words**

Time the with the first group of 10 words. Count the number of words correct and the time in seconds it takes to read these 10 words. Then, give the student a few minute break before reading and timing the next group of words. Record accuracy and time on the fluency tracking sheets, [appendix X, page X](#). There are detailed instructions for fluency tracking in this appendix. The student should focus on accuracy, speed will come with time and accurate practice.

## Step 15: Z

[zebra]

**Z, z**

Nonsense Words:

**za ze zi zo**

**zee zea zay zoa**

**zoe zie zigh**

Review Words:

**way eat vie Lee**

**fay no jay nigh**

**Kay ail row Joe**



[alien] Help the alien read more sentences. Remember,  
the planet is depending on you!

Real sentences:

**I go see a jay.**

**We see a high oaf.**

**I see a yo-yo go.**

Nonsense sentences:

**Ka ke ko zee.**

**Re jie vo yigh.**

**Zee wo vay oap.**

### 3 SILENT E

We are still teaching long vowels, we are just learning a new pattern for the way they are made. Again, we will save long u for later, but teach silent e with a, I, e, and o words. Hints if they are confused, underline both, both same color on white board, if they have been doing short vowel words in another program, back and forth mat mate mate mat sip sipe sipe sip.

## Step 16: Silent E with A\_E

**A, a: ai, ay, a-e**

Real Words:

**ape cape ate late  
lane make same  
made sale save**

Nonsense Words:

**afe ake ale ane  
vake bame fane**

Review Words:

**high sea lie see  
day doe jay mail  
sail tie bee vie**

Real Words:

**Abe tape rate**  
**mane rail lake maze**  
**fade bale wave jade**

Nonsense Words:

**aze dake nade**  
**fale dail nane**

Review Words:

**go see nay be sea**  
**bay so ate low**  
**me aim sow ray**



















