

# Phonics Cheat Sheet

## Phonics

**Consonants** – b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z

**Vowels** – a, e, i, o, u, and sometimes y

**Short vowels** – DO NOT say their name, instead they make a sound.

**Long vowels** – DO say their name! They can have another vowel next to it.

Examples: pail, read, boat)

OR can be followed by a consonant and then an “e.” Examples: bake, hope, kite, cute)

OR can be left “open.” Examples: go, he, me, hi.

**Consonant blends** – When two or three consonants are blended together, each consonant sound should be heard in the blend. Some examples of consonant blends are: black, grab, stop, spring.

**Predictable Vowel Teams-** Predictable vowel teams are two vowels side by side in a word that represent one sound and usually have one pronunciation.

Examples: toast, soil, mouse.

**Unpredictable Vowel Teams-** Vowel teams are two vowels side-by-side in a word that represent one sound. Unpredictable vowel teams have more than one pronunciation. Examples: foot, good, meal, bread.

**Consonant digraphs** – A combination of two consonant sounds that together represent a new sound. Examples of consonant digraphs are: shop, chin, photo.

**Trigraphs-** are three letters together that represent one sound. The vowel sound before the trigraph is short. Example: match,

**R-controlled vowels** – When a vowel is followed by the letter “r,” the vowel does not make the long or short sound but is considered “r-controlled.” Examples are: bird, corn, nurse.

**Vowel diphthongs** – The term “vowel diphthong” refers to the blending of two vowel sounds – both vowel sounds are usually heard and they make a gliding sound.

Examples include: saw, mouth, foil.

**Syllable** – A word or a part of a word that has a vowel sound you can hear

**Rime-** The vowel and letters that come after the vowel in a syllable at the end of a word. Sit, spit, and split all have the same rime *it*.

**Complex Consonants-** Some examples include triple letter blends, spelling variations of final /k/, /ch/, and /j/ sounds, hard and soft c and g, and silent consonants. Examples are dge, gn, kn, mb, tch. See below for additional information.

**Hard and Soft c and g:** c and g can be pronounced with a soft sound as in city and gym, or a hard sound, as in cut and gum. When c and g are followed by an e, i or y the consonant sound is soft. When c and g are followed by an a, o, or, u the consonant sound is hard.

**Final tch and dge** Most short vowel words that end with /ch/ are spelled with *tch*; exceptions are *much, such*, and *which* . Long vowels, at times other vowels, and consonants *l*, *n*, and *r* signal the use of *ch*. Final *dge* and *ge* follow the same principles.