

Second Grade Foundations Information Packet for Parents



Vocabulary, Rules, &
Unit Overviews

Unit 1 - Review

Chicken Letter – q is called the “chicken letter” because it goes nowhere without u

Digraph – contains two consonants and only makes one sound: wh, sh, ch, th, ck

Blend – contains two or three consonants, but each keeps its own sound: sm, tr, spl

Digraph Blend – a digraph blended with another consonant, such as n and ch in the word bunch.

Spelling of the /k/ sound: At the end of one-syllable words, ck is used immediately after short vowels (sick). Students will learn to use c at the beginning of most words, k at the beginning of words if the next letter is e or i (Ken, kit) and k at the end of a word following consonants (milk).

Closed Syllable Type – This syllable can only have one vowel

- The vowel is followed by one or more consonants (closed in)
- The vowel sound is short, marked with a breve. **ă ē ĭ ō ū**
- This syllable can be combined with other syllables to make multisyllabic words.

Practice Ideas

- Underline digraphs in sentences or paragraphs
- Sort words – digraphs vs. blends vs. digraph blends
- Find words with ck at the end
- Mark up closed syllables

Unit 2 Review

Bonus Letter Rule – At the end of a one-syllable word, if the word has one vowel, followed immediately by an f, l, or s at the end, double that consonant. fill puff mess

“Glued” Sounds – letters that keep their individual sound but are glued together. To tap these out, use two or three fingers

“glued” to represent the number of sounds working together. all, am, an, ang, ing, ong, ung, ank, ink, onk, and unk.

Vowel Team – two vowels together that make just one sound. At this time students are introduced to the vowel teams: ai, ee, ey, ay, ea. Students are not expected to master these until later on in Level 2.

Practice Ideas

- Sort words – bonus letter vs. words without bonus letters
- Find words with glued sounds
- Circle vowel teams in words

Unit 3

Closed Syllable Exception – follow a similar pattern to closed syllables, but have a long vowel sound instead of the expected short vowel sound. There are five exceptions to the closed syllables. Students will learn them as glued sounds – old, ild, ind, old, ost.

Vowel Team – two vowels together that make just one sound. At this time students are introduced to the vowel teams – oi, oy. Students are not expected to master these until later on in Level 2.

Practice Ideas

- Sort words – closed syllable vs. closed syllable exception
- Mark up words that are closed syllable exceptions
- Circle vowel teams in words

Unit 4 Review Suffixes: -s, -es, -ed, and -ing

New Suffixes: –er and –est, as well as two additional sounds for –ed, /d/ and /t/

Vowel suffixes – begin with a vowel -es, -ed, -ing, -est, -er

Consonant suffixes – begin with a consonant –s

Baseword – also called the root

Students will learn to isolate, say, and spell the baseword before adding the suffix.

Vowel Team - two vowels together that make just one sound. At this time students are introduced to the vowel teams – oa, ow, ou, ue, oe, ow, ou, ue, oo, ew. Students are not expected to master these until later on in Level 2.

Practice Ideas

- Sort words - vowel suffixes vs. consonant suffixes
- Circle vowel teams in words
- Mark up words with suffixes

Unit 5

Syllables – Words are made up of parts called syllables. Sounds go together to make each part. Each syllable is one push of breath.

Compound Words – two words together that combine to make a longer word.

Syllable Division Rules

- In order to divide compound words into syllables, we simply divide between the two words (hand bag, chest nut)
- Divide between two consonants (hap pen, gob lin) • Do not split-up digraphs (rock et, eth nic)
- For now, when there is only one consonant between two vowels, that consonant is needed to close in the first syllable. (rel ish, ton ic)
- Blend stays together in second syllable (mat tress, hun dred)

New Suffixes – 4 new consonant suffixes: -ness, -less, -ment, -ful 3 new vowel suffixes: -able, -ish, -en

Using -ic at the end of multisyllabic words – Multisyllabic words ending with the /ik/ sound are spelled with -ic not -ick.

Vowel Team – Students are introduced to the vowel teams au and aw. Students are not expected to master these until later on in Level 2.

Practice Ideas

- Scoop syllables
- Sort words with vowel suffixes and consonant suffixes
- Sort words by syllable division rules they follow
- Sort words that use ick or ic at the end

Unit 6

Vowel-Consonant-e Syllable - This syllable has a vowel, then a consonant, then an e.

- The first vowel is long. To indicate the long sound, the vowel is marked with a macron.
- The e is silent.
- This syllable can be combined with other syllables to make multisyllabic words.

Two sounds for u in a v-e syllable - /u / as in mule (or use, cute) or /ü/ as in rule (or tube, June)

S can say /z/ - when added to a word as suffix or when it is between two vowels, as in the words nose, rose, or wise.

Spelling Options – Sometimes two spellings make sense: ex. rose and roze Decide which looks correct. If you don't know, FIND OUT

Vowel-Consonant-e Syllable Exception - The letter v does not end words in our language. It is always followed by a silent e. Ex: give, have

Practice Ideas

- Sort words – vowel-consonant-e syllables vs. vowel-consonant-e syllable exceptions
- Scoop multisyllabic words and mark up syllable type • Spell words in syllable boxes
- Sort words – ive (long /i /) vs. ive (short /i /) vs. ive (suffix)
- Find words where s says the /z/ sound

Unit 7

Open Syllable – The vowel can say its name because there is nothing closing it in.

Y as a vowel – Y often works as a vowel in open syllables, saying long /i / at the end of one syllable words (cry) and long /e / at the end of multisyllabic words (baby)

New Syllable Division Rule – If there is only one consonant between two vowels, try dividing the word both ways in order to find the correct division. Ex: fi nal, fin ish

New Suffixes – one new vowel suffix (-y) that says long /e / two consonant suffixes (-ly, -ty)

Practice Ideas

•Sort words by syllable types (closed vs. open) •Circle words where y is acting as a vowel •Practice dividing multisyllabic words

Unit 8

R-Controlled Syllable - contains a single vowel followed by an r

New Keywords for ar and or

- ar – car – /ar/
- or – horn – /or/

Spellings of /or/

- ore makes the same sound as or even though it is a v-e, not an r-controlled syllable
- o-r is used at the beginning or middle of a word •o-r-e is used at the end of a word

Practice Ideas

- Sort words by syllable types (r-controlled and non r-controlled)
- Circle words with ar and or in them
- Practice dividing multisyllabic words

Unit 9

R-Controlled Syllable - contains a single vowel followed by an r. New keywords for er, ir, and ur

er her /er/

ir bird /er/

ur burn /er/

Er, ir, and ur all make the same sound. Spelling Option - Sometimes more than one spelling makes sense: ex: ferst, first, furst

Decide which looks correct. If you don't know, FIND OUT.

At the end of a word with more than one syllable, /er/ is spelled with er, not ur or ir.

Practice Ideas

- Sort words by syllable types (r-controlled and non r-controlled)
- Circle words with er, ir and ur in them
- Practice the spelling option procedure

Unit 10

Double Vowel Syllable or “D” Syllable- This syllable contains a vowel digraph or diphthong. These are vowel teams.

Vowel Digraph: Two vowels together that represent one sound (ee)

Diphthong: A sound that begins with one vowel sound and glides into another (oi)

*It is not necessary that students know the difference between a vowel digraph and diphthong.

Homophones – these are two words, spelled two different ways with two different meanings but sound the same.

Practice Ideas

- Sort words by syllable types (D syllable and non-D syllable)
- Circle words with ai and ay in them
- Make a list of homophones

Unit 11

Practice with New Vowel Teams: ee, ea, ey •All have the long /e/ sound •All are found in double vowel syllables •Use the spelling option procedure with these vowel teams •ey can only be used at the end of a word

•**ea and ee are generally found in the middle of a syllable** **Note:** ea can also make a short /e / sound as in bread, and a long /a / sound as in steak. These sounds will not be introduced until Foundations Level 3.

Practice Ideas

- Practice the spelling option procedure for words with a long /e / sound •Circle words with ee, ea, and ey in them.

Unit 12

Practice with New Vowel Teams: oi and oy
Both vowel combinations make the /oi/ sound

- oy is used only at the end of a syllable
- oi is used at the beginning or middle of a syllable.

Practice Ideas

- Practice marking up syllable types
- Circle words with oi and oy in them.

Unit 13

Practice with New Vowel Teams: oa, oe, ow

- All of these vowel teams make the long /o / sound.
- The ow combination can also make the /ou/ sound, but that will not be practiced until the next unit.
- Use the spelling option procedure with these vowel teams

Students will also review suffixes in this unit.

Practice Ideas

- Sort words by syllable types
- Circle words with oa, oe, and ow in them
- Practice the spelling option procedure for words with a long /o/ sound

Unit 14

Practice with New Vowel Teams: ou, ow

- Both vowel teams say /ou/
- Some of the double vowels have more than one pronunciation. In this case, ow says one sound in now and a different sound in know
- ou is only used at the beginning or in the middle of a word or syllable.
- ow can be used in the middle or at the end of a word or syllable.

Practice Ideas

- Practice marking up syllable types
- Circle words with ou and ow in them.

Unit 15

New Keywords for oo, ue, ou, ew

- oo – school •ue – blue AND ue – rescue •ou – soup •ew – chew
- (The other sound for oo, as in book, will not be taught until Level 3.)

Practice Ideas

- Sort words by syllable types
- Circle words with oo, ue, ou, and ew in them
- Practice the spelling option procedure for words with a long /u/ sound and /u/

Unit 16

Practice with New Vowel Teams: au, aw

- Both vowel teams make the sound as in August and saw.
- In some areas of the country this sound is pronounced as a short o. Words like Don and Dawn would therefore rhyme. If this is the case with your dialect, there would then be three spellings for the short o sound.

Practice Ideas

- Sort words by syllable types
- Circle words with au and aw in them
- Practice marking up syllables

Unit 17

Consonant-le Syllable •This syllable has only three letters: a consonant, an **l**, and an **e**.

•The **e is silent**. It is the vowel. Every syllable needs at least one vowel. The consonant and the l are sounded like a blend.

Once again e volunteers to be in a syllable without making a sound (just like it did in the v-e syllable.)

Practice Ideas

- Sort words by syllable types (Consonant-le syllable and non consonant-le syllable)
- Circle words with -le at the end
- Practice marking up syllables