

Vowel Sounds Phonics Assessment

The purpose of this whole class assessment is to determine which vowel sounds students can and cannot accurately read. Although, the test actually determines word recognition, rather than pronunciation, the correlation between the two is statistically significant and the results are valid and prescriptive. In other words, teachers can reliably use this diagnostic data to effectively differentiate instruction.

Using nonsense words helps eliminate the variable of sight word prior knowledge. This is especially necessary for vulnerable reading students, who may have acquired a bank of sight words, but still lack decoding ability. Nonsense words help students attend to the vowel sounds so that the teacher can accurately assess student decoding ability.

Directions, Grading, Recording

Pass out the **Vowel Sounds Phonics Assessment** to students. Play this audio file, which includes the following directions and test administration: [Vowel Sounds Phonics Assessment \(10:42\)](#). Teachers may also choose to administer the assessment in self-grading Google Forms (includes audio file):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xCFTV9gfn91sErPAW3WiRNPM_6yASdFi2So45017KZY/copy

“This is a short test to see if you can identify the nonsense words I say out loud. Listen carefully because I won’t repeat the words after the test is finished. On your test, find the first row of four words. [Pause] After I say each word, fill in the capital letter that best matches the spelling of that word I say. Let’s start with Number One. Ready? Number One is *hux* (repeat twice more).”

Note that the teacher reads only the underlined word in each row. Follow this script for the rest of the test.

Once the assessments have been scored using the teacher copy of the assessment, the errors should be recorded on the **Reading Mastery Matrix** with a / for each vowel sound component not meeting mastery criteria of 80% for each student. The numerical mastery criteria are listed in the right-hand margins. Teachers may also choose to upload results in Google Sheets.

Helpful Hints

- ✓ Do not elongate the vowel sounds.
- ✓ Use the (rhyme) as a key to correct pronunciation.
- ✓ Keep a consistent pace of about seven seconds per test item. Any longer and students will lose their place or begin daydreaming.

Vowel Sounds Phonics Assessment (Teacher Pages)

TEACHER DIRECTIONS: Read each underlined word three times. Use the (rhyme) as a key to correct pronunciation. Do not elongate the vowel sounds.

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|-------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ___1. | A. hox | B. hix | C. <u>hux</u> (ducks) | D. hax |
| ___2. | A. pem | B. pum | C. pim | D. <u>pom</u> (mom) |
| ___3. | A. gud | B. ged | C. <u>gid</u> (bid) | D. gad |
| ___4. | A. <u>meg</u> (peg) | B. mig | C. mog | D. mag |
| ___5. | A. kes | B. kus | C. kos | D. <u>kas</u> (pass) |
| ___6. | A. suef | B. <u>seaf</u> (deaf) | C. saef | D. sif |

Short Vowels 5/6 Mastery ___/6

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|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ___7. | A. bin | B. <u>bine</u> (fine) | C. bian | D. byan |
| ___8. | A. diak | B. dak | C. <u>dake</u> (rake) | D. diek |
| ___9. | A. yut | B. yeat | C. <u>yute</u> (chute) | D. yiout |
| ___10. | A. toup | B. <u>tope</u> (rope) | C. teop | D. taop |
| ___11. | A. buot | B. बात | C. buit | D. <u>bute</u> (mute) |
| ___12. | A. <u>fene</u> (bean) | B. feun | C. fen | D. faen |

Consonant-Final e 5/6 Mastery ___/6

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|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| ___13. | A. vaudy | B. vawdy | C. <u>vady</u> (lady) | D. viedy |
| ___14. | A. <u>fay</u> (bay) | B. fiay | C. foay | D. fuay |
| ___15. | A. kaek | B. keak | C. kik | D. <u>kaik</u> (rake) |
| ___16. | A. <u>bein</u> (rain) | B. boan | C. bian | D. baun |
| ___17. | A. motfew | B. <u>motfe</u> (motley) | C. motfeu | D. motfoa |
| ___18. | A. jeu | B. jiu | C. jeo | D. <u>jee</u> (me) |
| ___19. | A. cid | B. <u>ceid</u> (need) | C. cide | D. ceud |
| ___20. | A. kybo | B. kybi | C. <u>keby</u> (freebie) | D. keyb |
| ___21. | A. <u>deat</u> (meat) | B. diut | C. dight | D. diegt |
| ___22. | A. zaen | B. zein | C. <u>zien</u> (bean) | D. zen |
| ___23. | A. pioson | B. piason | C. piuson | D. pison (bison) |
| ___24. | A. beu | B. <u>bigh</u> (high) | C. bei | D. bia |
| ___25. | A. ceter | B. caeter | C. <u>cyter</u> (writer) | D. couter |

Vowel Sounds Phonics Assessment (Teacher Pages)

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|--------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ___26. | A. mip | B. miap | C. mippe | D. <u>miep</u> (wipe) |
| ___27. | A. biuped | B. beoped | C. <u>boped</u> (moped) | D. baoped |
| ___28. | A. <u>koel</u> (goal) | B. kuol | C. kiol | D. kaol |
| ___29. | A. moip | B. mup | C. moop | D. <u>moap</u> (soap) |
| ___30. | A. <u>kow</u> (show) | B. kuiw | C. keiw | D. kaw |
| ___31. | A. puwtest | B. poutest | C. poitest | D. <u>putest</u> (cutest) |
| ___32. | A. kuo | B. kuh | C. <u>kew</u> (few) | D. kau |
| ___33. | A. bau | B. bui | C. <u>bue</u> (view) | D. beo |

Long Vowels/ Vowel Digraphs 17/21 ___/21

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|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| ___34. | A. <u>goot</u> (boot) | B. guite | C. giot | D. gueth |
| ___35. | A. croi | B. <u>crue</u> (blue) | C. crau | D. criu |
| ___36. | A. saeyt | B. soty | C. siuty | D. <u>suty</u> (duty) |
| ___37. | A. taed | B. <u>tewd</u> (food) | C. tid | D. teed |
| ___38. | A. <u>wut</u> (foot) | B. waht | C. weut | D. wat |
| ___39. | A. muek | B. mowk | C. <u>mook</u> (book) | D. mauk |
| ___40. | A. mayl | B. mawl | C. mool | D. <u>mowel</u> (towel) |
| ___41. | A. sud | B. soad | C. <u>soud</u> (loud) | D. siud |
| ___42. | A. pown | B. poun | C. poan | D. <u>poin</u> (coin) |
| ___43. | A. luy | B. <u>loy</u> (boy) | C. lowy | D. luyh |
| ___44. | A. <u>bawn</u> (dawn) | B. ban | C. boun | D. bown |
| ___45. | A. loind | B. loond | C. lound | D. <u>laund</u> (fond) |
| ___46. | A. <u>algo</u> (also) | B. owlgo | C. ailgo | D. argo |
| ___47. | A. rael | B. roul | C. <u>rall</u> (tall) | D. rial |

Diphthongs 11/14 ___/14

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|--------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ___48. | A. loirt | B. loort | C. lawrt | D. <u>lort</u> (sort) |
| ___49. | A. gar | B. <u>gur</u> (fur) | C. gier | D. gor |
| ___50. | A. dorb | B. dowb | C. <u>dery</u> (serve) | D. darb |
| ___51. | A. <u>tir</u> (sir) | B. ture | C. teer | D. tier |
| ___52. | A. morve | B. <u>marve</u> (carve) | C. merve | D. mawrv |

r-controlled Vowels ___/5

Vowel Sounds Phonics Assessment

Name _____

___1.	A. hox	B. hix	C. hux	D. hax	
___2.	A. pem	B. pum	C. pim	D. pom	
___3.	A. gud	B. ged	C. gid	D. gad	
___4.	A. meg	B. mig	C. mog	D. mag	
___5.	A. kes	B. kus	C. kos	D. kas	
___6.	A. suef	B. seaf	C. saef	D. sif	___/6
___7.	A. bin	B. bine	C. bian	D. byan	
___8.	A. diak	B. dak	C. dake	D. diek	
___9.	A. yut	B. yeat	C. yute	E. yiout	
___10.	A. toup	B. tope	C. teop	D. taop	
___11.	A. buot	B. बात	C. buit	D. bute	
___12.	A. fene	B. feun	C. fen	D. faen	___/6
___13.	A. vaudy	B. vawdy	C. vady	D. viedy	
___14.	A. fay	B. fiay	C. foay	D. fuay	
___15.	A. kaek	B. keak	C. kik	D. kaik	
___16.	A. bein	B. boan	C. bian	D. baun	
___17.	A. motfew	B. motfe	C. motfeu	D. motfoa	
___18.	A. jeu	B. jiu	C. jeo	D. jee	
___19.	A. cid	B. ceid	C. cide	D. ceud	
___20.	A. kybo	B. kybi	C. keby	D. keyb	
___21.	A. deat	B. diut	C. dight	D. diegt	
___22.	A. zaen	B. zein	C. zien	D. zen	
___23.	A. poison	B. piason	C. piuson	D. pison	
___24.	A. beu	B. bigh	C. bei	D. bia	
___25.	A. ceter	B. caeter	C. cyter	D. couter	

Vowel Sounds Phonics Assessment

Name _____

___26.	A. mip	B. miap	C. mippe	D. miep	
___27.	A. biuped	B. beoped	C. boped	D. baoped	
___28.	A. koel	B. kuol	C. kiol	D. kaol	
___29.	A. moip	B. mup	C. moop	D. moap	
___30.	A. kow	B. kuiw	C. keiw	D. kaw	
___31.	A. puwtest	B. poutest	C. poitest	D. putest	
___32.	A. kuo	B. kuh	C. kew	D. kau	
___33.	A. bau	B. bui	C. bue	D. beo	___/21
___34.	A. goot	B. guite	C. giot	D. gueth	
___35.	A. croi	B. crue	C. crau	D. criu	
___36.	A. saeyt	B. soty	C. siuty	D. suty	
___37.	A. taed	B. tewd	C. tid	D. teed	
___38.	A. wut	B. waht	C. weut	D. wat	
___39.	A. muck	B. mowk	C. mook	D. mauk	
___40.	A. mayl	B. mawl	C. mool	D. mowel	
___41.	A. sud	B. soad	C. soud	D. siud	
___42.	A. pown	B. poun	C. poan	D. poin	
___43.	A. luy	B. loy	C. lowy	D. luyh	
___44.	A. bawn	B. ban	C. boun	D. bown	
___45.	A. loind	B. loond	C. lound	D. laund	
___46.	A. algo	B. owlgo	C. ailgo	D. argo	
___47.	A. rael	B. roul	C. rall	D. rial	___/14
___48.	A. loirt	B. loort	C. lawrt	D. lort	
___49.	A. gar	B. gur	C. gier	D. gor	
___50.	A. dorb	B. dowb	C. derv	D. darb	
___51.	A. tir	B. ture	C. teer	D. tier	
___52.	A. morve	B. marve	C. merve	D. mawrv	___/5