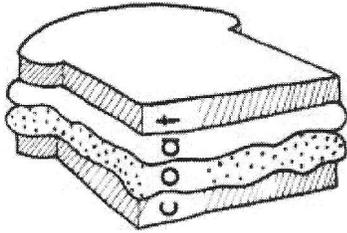
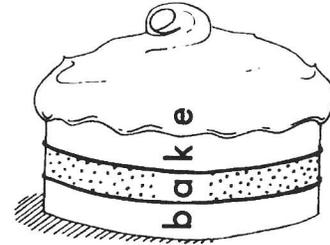


Some Stevenson Mnemonic Clues for Vowel Patterns and Other Phonics Elements



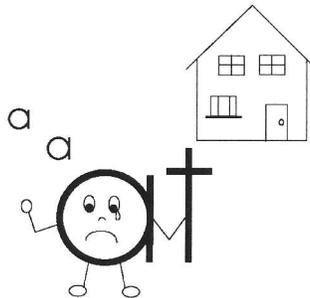
Peanut Butter and Jelly Words – The “oa friends” (a vowel pattern) are sandwiched between slices of bread. Letter o is crunchy peanut butter, which you can hear when you chew the sandwich, and which makes its long o sound (its name) when you read these sandwich words. Letter a is smooth jelly, which is quiet when you chew and silent when you read. (Letter a also has a special surprise job.) Other pairs of friends – ai (as in rain), the ee twins (as in seed) and ea (as in heat) – are also crunchy pb&j words.

Layer Cake Words – In layer cake words the vowel friends alternate with consonants – in other words, they are layered. These are conventionally referred to as ‘silent e’ words. The long vowel that says its name is a special kind of cake filling in which the frosting is mixed with chocolate chips and bits of candy, so it is crunchy when you eat a slice. The creamy e frosting is quiet when you eat it and silent when you read it.



Lonely o – Lonely o (a.k.a. short o) does not have any of his other vowel friends with him, so he does not say his name. He makes a sad lonely sound (short /o/).

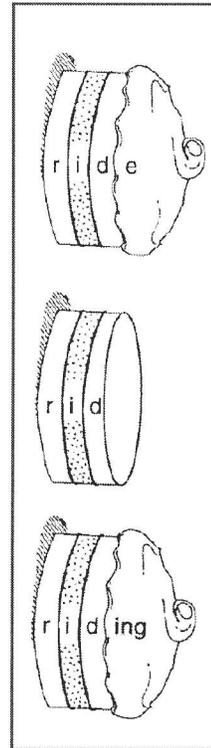
Lonely a – Lonely a (a.k.a. short a) is at home alone.



Tongue Words - In some words, like loud, the letters ou make the /ow/ sound. You would make an /ow/ sound too, if someone tried to pull your u tongue from your o mouth.



More clues cover other vowel forms, prefixes, suffixes, irregular words and difficult situations, such as doubling consonants before a suffix. During the three levels of the program, all syllable types are handled and many homophone spelling issues are also resolved.



Changing Frostings

You can scrape off the creamy, silent e frosting and add other kinds. Here you see the chocolate ing frosting being added. This and other frostings can actually be added to sandwich words and many other kinds of words as well. “Lonely vowel” words need “guard letters” before the frosting is added. The combinations are fun, sometimes tasty, and always memorable.

Decorations – In addition to switching frostings, you can add decorations. The first decoration students meet is the candle-like decoration ly. You can stick it right on top of the cake without changing the frosting.

