

# HOW TO USE THESE CARDS

The nine phonogram categories in this set are organized for easy reference and to give some rational order to the irregularities of English spelling. While the order of the categories is from the simpler to the more complex, within each category there may be advanced phonograms that you will want to postpone for later attention. Also, the order of the categories is somewhat flexible after Section I. For instance, you may choose to teach Sections III and IV before the long vowels in Section II. Use these cards in the order that matches your phonics and reading program.

Phonogram cards can be combined and recombined to help students see the multiple ways a sound can be spelled and the multiple sounds for a particular phonogram. For instance, the vowel team *ea* has two long sounds and one short sound in section V. When all phonograms have been covered individually, group them together to practice the three sounds of *ea*.

# ORGANIZATION

- I. Alphabet
- II. Letters With More Than One Sound
- III. Consonant Teams A
- IV. Initial and Final Consonant Blends
- V. Vowel Teams A (long and short vowels)
- VI. Consonant Teams B
- VII. Vowel Teams B (five more vowel sounds)
- VIII. R-Controlled Vowels
- IX. Advanced Letter Teams

# INTRODUCTION

Phonograms are letters or letter teams that represent (spell) one of the 44 sounds of the English language. English spelling is the most complex and irregular of any of the modern Western languages. There are nearly 200 phonograms used to spell our 44 English sounds. Many phonograms have more than one sound, and many sounds are spelled by more than one phonogram. Phonogram cards help students recognize the great variety of spelling patterns in English.

The first "phonograms" students learn are the 26 letters of the alphabet. Consonant letters are relatively reliable in English; only three consonants, **s**, **c**, **g**, have more than one sound. (The letter **y** has three vowel sounds but only one consonant sound.)

English has 25 consonant sounds, seven of which are represented by letter teams: /ch/, /sh/, /th/, /th/, /hw/, /zh/, /ng/.

English has 6 vowel letters, counting **y**, but 19 vowel sounds. The vowels, **a**, **e**, **i**, **o**, **u** each have long and short sounds. The spelling of each of the short sounds is very consistent. It is in the spelling of the long vowel sounds, however, that English is most

irregular. There is an average of eight common ways to spell each long sound. For instance, common spellings of long e are: e (*me*), ee (*see*), ea (*meat*), ei (*deceive*), ie (*field*), ey (*key*), y (*baby*), and i (*ski*).

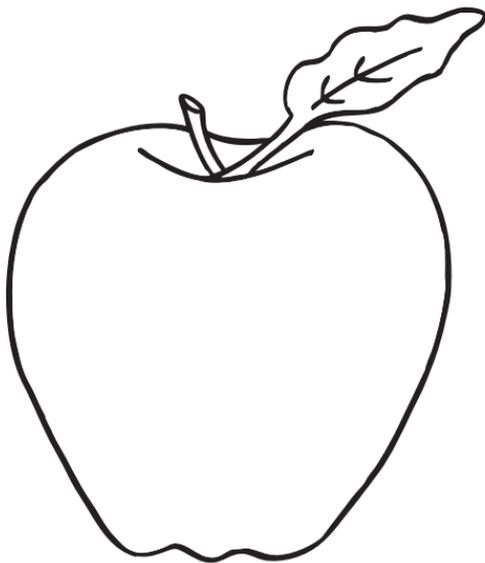
To complicate matters, many of the long vowel phonograms have other sounds. For instance, the phonogram ea has three sounds: ē as in *meat*, ā as in *great*, and ě as in *bread*.

In addition, English has 9 more vowel sounds that are spelled in multiple ways. See Sections VII and VIII for a survey of these vowel sounds and their spellings.

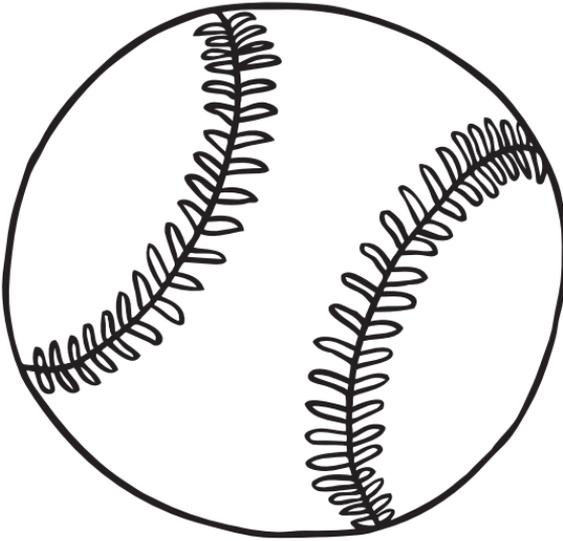
English reading and spelling are challenging. Isolating and focusing on "phonograms" with flashcards helps students to see the pronunciation "chunks" in words and to gain fluency in reading and spelling. The goal for beginning readers is to gain fluency in recognizing phonograms for decoding in reading. For more advanced readers, practice with phonograms is an aid to spelling.

**Note:** The cards in Section IV, consonant blends, are not phonograms per se, because they do not spell one of the 44 English sounds, but rather are blends of two consonants. Students need practice with these blends, however, so they are included in this set.

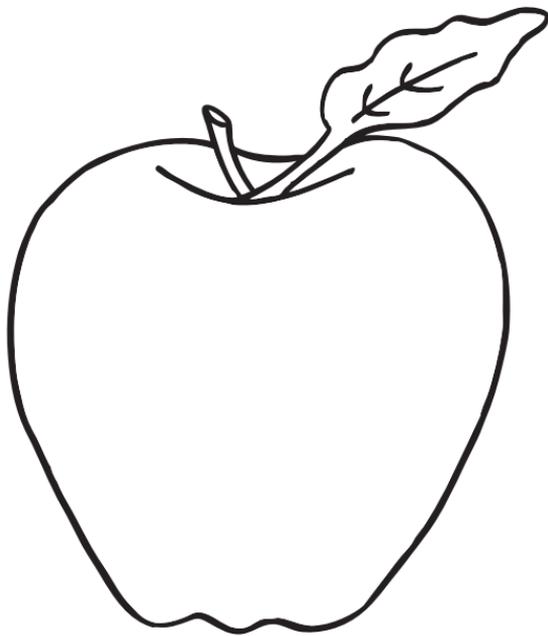
A a



Bb



ă



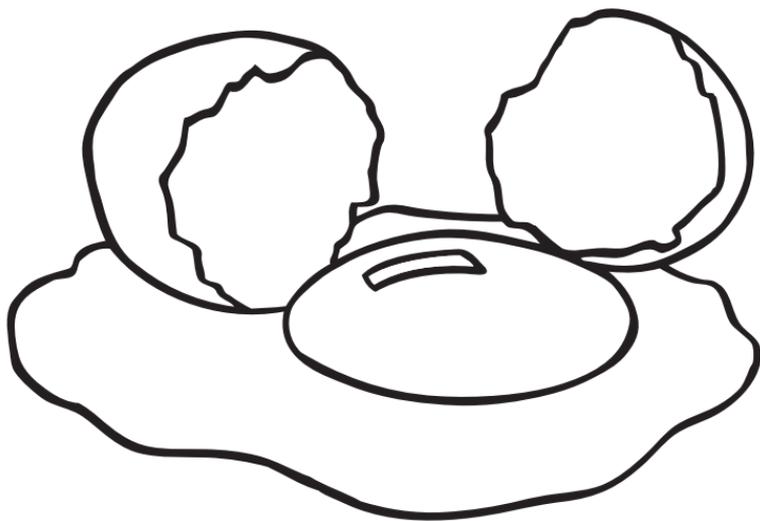
# apple

ax      am      man

an      cap      hat

at      sad      bag

ě



egg

bed

Ed

net

beg

hen

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ā



# cake

ate Jane safe

gaze game tale

save lane late

date tame Kate

e



me

be

she

even

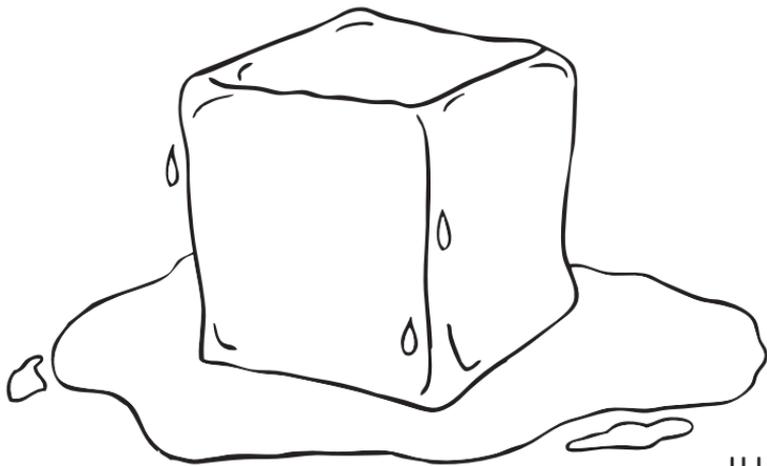
we

he

these

soft

C



/ s /

before e, i, y

ice

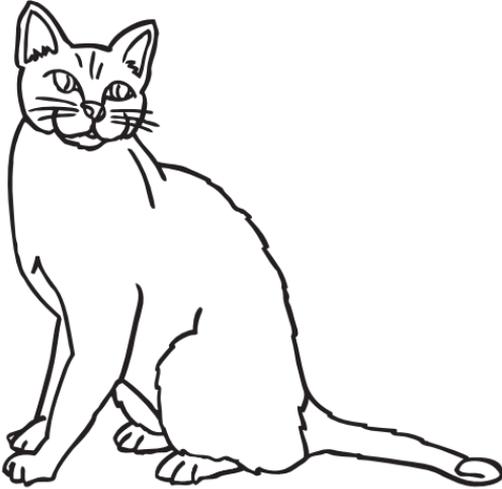
cent city face

rice

circus

hard

C



/k/

before a, o, u

cat

coast

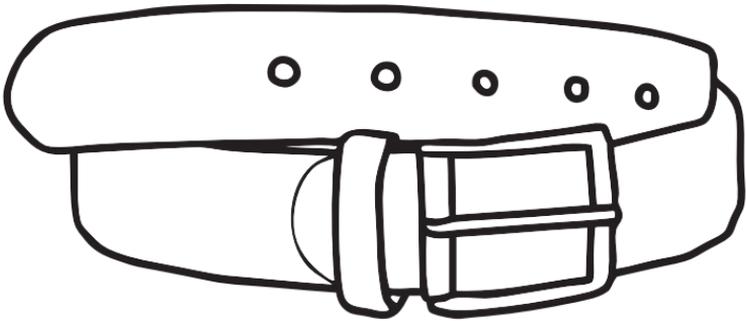
clock

cap

candy

coat

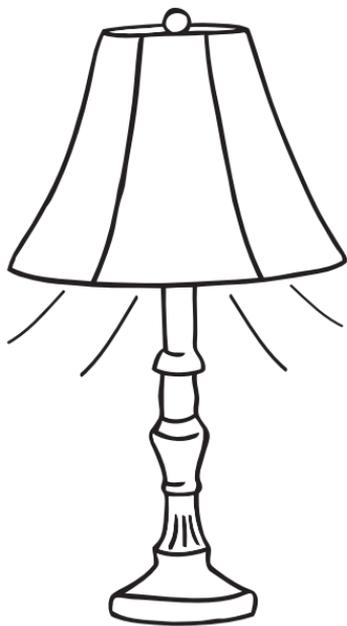
cute



belt

felt melt wilt

m p



# lamp

bump lump damp

dump pump romp

jump camp limp

gh

(usually silent)

thought

high eight light

neighbor

gh



/f/

cough

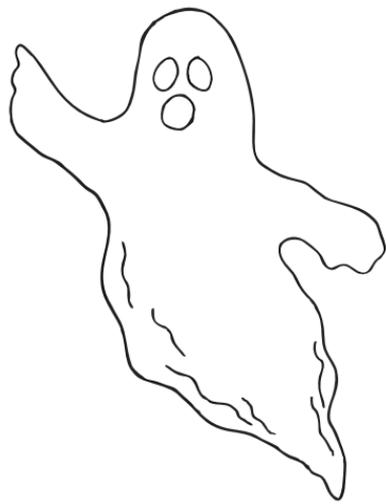
tough

laugh

rough

enough

gh



red

orange

again

against