

TIPS FOR TEACHERS

SHORT/LONG VOWEL PATTERNS



1725 East Mountain View Road
Phoenix, AZ 85020-2345
www.readskill.com

READING MANIPULATIVES PRODUCT: Flip Strips – SLV patterns



Flip strips are a perfect visual tool for illustrating short/long vowel patterns.

Abstract verbiage confuses students. This hands-on, concrete method is unbelievably effective. The flip strips show that when a word has one vowel, it is short. As the second vowel is flipped over, the first vowel becomes long and the second is silent.

Flip strips can be used with students of all ages for decoding or encoding instruction. The large size (1.6" x 8.5") works well with groups.

The 105 in this set include nearly every possible short to long word combination. They cover the final "e" and two-vowels-together patterns.

FLIP STRIPS – SLV PATTERNS Download PDF \$8

TEACHING STRATEGIES: Using short/long vowel patterns to decode words

Step 1 – Teach vowel phonemes

First make sure that students can identify and produce the vowel phonemes. Consider using explicit phonics. Introducing phonemes in isolation with sounds students have made or heard vastly improves chances that they will remember the sounds. Reading Manipulatives has amazingly effective phoneme songs and posters (Short Vowel Posters & CD – 135). You can listen to the songs on our website or download free short vowel posters.

Long vowels are easier to master. Remind students that the long vowels “say their names.” Long u is somewhat troublesome since it has two sounds (as in fuse [fyooz] and plume [ploom]). Work with the easier vowels first. Students tend to predict the long u sound without any difficulty after they become comfortable with short and long vowels and patterns.

Step 2 – Teach short/long vowel patterns

Once students can identify and make the short and long sounds, teach vowel patterns. Simplify the basic concepts being taught. Teach this rule for short/long vowel patterns:

When there is one vowel in the word (at the beginning or the middle), the vowel sound is short.

When there are two vowels, the first vowel is long and the second is silent.

Flip strips are ideal to demonstrate and teach this. Students read the short vowel word. When the second vowel is flipped over, the word is then read with a long vowel sound.

Most one-syllable words follow this rule, making it an excellent building block for beginning readers. This concept is taught before variant vowel phonograms, which are obvious exceptions.

MAKING MATERIALS: Short/long vowel pattern flip strips

1. Line off cover-weight sheets of paper (8.5 x 11 inches) into 7 horizontal strips (1.6 inches high).
2. Draw a vertical line 2.25 inches from right side. Fold along that line from back to front.
3. Write the words on the strips. If the word ends in a silent e, then write the entire short vowel word outside the fold. Then write the e on the folded over piece.
4. If the long-vowel word has two vowels together, or if the short vowel word ends in -ck or -ll, then the -ck, -ll, or final consonant has to be under the fold (see examples below). It is easier to write the long vowel word (with the right side folded over) first.

FRONT

Draw lines. Write words after making vertical fold. Lift fold to write letters underneath.

can	
bit	
not	
cub	fold here
ran	
set	
lick	

BACK

No need to draw lines since words are written from front after fold is made.

e
e
e
e
in
at
ke

RESOURCE LIST: Short/long vowel combinations for flip strips

VCE Pattern – A		VCE Pattern – I		VV Pattern – AI		VV Pattern – EA	
back	bake	bit	bite	bat	bait	bed	bead
can	cane	dim	dime	bran	brain	bet	beat
cap	cape	fin	fine	clam	claim	den	dean
fat	fate	hid	hide	mad	maid	men	mean
hat	hate	kit	kite	man	main	met	meat
mad	made	lick	like	pad	paid	net	neat
man	mane	quit	quite	pal	pail	red	read
plan	plane	rip	ripe	pan	pain	set	seat
rat	rate	shin	shine	plan	plain	speck	speak
snack	snake	slid	slide	ran	rain	stem	steam
tap	tape	spin	spine	van	vain		
VV Pattern – OA		VCE Pattern – U		VV Pattern – EE		VCE Pattern – O	
blot	bloat	cub	cube	bet	beet	clock	cloak
cost	coast	cut	cute	fed	feed	hop	hope
cot	coat	fuss	fuse	fell	feel	mop	mope
got	goat	hug	huge	met	meet	not	note
rod	road	plum	plume	step	steep	rob	robe
sop	soap	tub	tube	wed	weed	rod	rode
						slop	slope