Letter sounds a to z: answers and notes

What your child practised: saying a sound for each letter of the alphabet, hearing the first sound in a word, and telling b from d (Reception phonics).

Page 1 · Warm up

s (sun) · a (ant) · t (tap) · p (pen) · i (ink) · n (net) · m (map) · d (dog) · g (gap) · o (on)

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check that each thing really starts with the sound, by saying the word slowly.

Page 2 · A. First sounds

sun **s** · cat **c** · hat **h**
pig **p** · web **w** · apple **a**

Page 3 · B. b or d?

dog · **b**all · **d**uck · be**d**

Page 3 · C. A sound for every letter

a (ant) · b (bat) · c (cup) · d (dig) · e (egg) · f (fan) · g (got) · h (hop) · i (ink) · j (jam) · k (kit) · l (leg) · m (mud) · n (nut) · o (on) · p (pan) · q (with u, "kw", queen) · r (run) · s (sit) · t (top) · u (up) · v (van) · w (wet) · x ("ks", at the end of box) · y (yes) · z (zip)

Page 3 · Challenge

No. **Ess** is the letter's **name**. The first **sound** in sun is **sss**, and we read with sounds.

Watch out for

- **Letter names instead of sounds** ("ess" for s). Say: "That's its name. What sound does it make?"
- **Mixing up b and d.** Use the bed trick from page 3, or think of the word **bed**: it starts with b and ends with d.
- **An "uh" on the end** ("muh", "tuh"). Model short, pure sounds: stretchy ones held (mmm), bouncy ones clipped (t). It makes blending much easier later.
- **x and q** are the odd ones: x says "ks" (box) and q nearly always comes with u to say "kw" (queen).

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **I spy with sounds:** "I spy something beginning with sss." Use the sound, not the letter name.
- **Sound of the day:** pick one letter in the morning and spot its sound all day: on the way to school, at the shops, at tea.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, "Two letters, one sound: sh, ch, th and ng", shows letters joining up to make one new sound.