First sounds: answers and notes

What your child practised: hearing the first sound in a spoken word and finding the letter that makes it, including b and d, and c and k (Reception phonics).

Page 1 · Warm up

Ring **sock** and **snake**. Bus ends with s, but starts with b. Fish starts with f.

Page 2 · I spy

Answers vary. Check the letter matches the first sound: mug **m**, pen **p**, sock **s**.

Page 2 · A. First sound

dog **d** · sun **s** · bed **b**
cup **c** · hat **h** · van **v**

Page 3 · B. Letter to picture

m → **map** · r → **rocket** · l → **leaf** · g → **guitar**

Page 3 · C. Odd one out

cat (sun, sock: s) · **dog** (bus, bed: b) · **fox** (pen, pig: p)

Page 3 · D. First letter

mug · **p**en · **f**an · **b**ox

Challenge: No. **s** is the **last** sound in bus. The first sound is **b**: b… us. If your child agreed with Sam, say the word with a bounce on the start, "b, b, bus", and ask which sound they bounced on.

Watch out for

- **The last sound instead of the first** (s for bus, n for sun). The end of a word is the freshest in the ear. Stretch or bounce the start.
- **b and d** (A: dog and bed). Draw the bed trick: b is the head of the bed, d is the foot.
- **Letter names** ("dee" for d). Ask: "What does it say?"
- **Another name for a picture** (cup or mug?). Accept their word and its first sound, then talk about the word the sheet means.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Sound basket:** collect three things that start with the same sound, and add one that doesn't. Can your child spot it?
- **Name game:** what sound do the names in your family start with?
- **In the game:** Chapter 3, Robot Talk, puts sounds together: hear d-o-g and find the dog.