Name _____ Date _____

Letter buddies

Sometimes two letters make just one sound.

1 Learn



Some letters are buddies. They hold hands and make just **one** sound. **s** and **h** together say **sh**, like "shh, quiet!"

1



Buddies get a **line**, not a dot.

2



Four letters, three sounds: **sh… i… p**

3



Push them together: **ship**!

Ten letter buddies to know

sh	ch	th	ng	ck
				
ship	chick	moth	ring	sock
ee	**oo**	**ai**	**ar**	**or**
				
bee	moon	rain	car	fork

Flip's tip: find the buddies first and give them a line. Letters on their own get a dot.

Warm up: draw a line under the buddies. Then read the word.

chip	ring	feet	farm

Grown-ups: say each buddy as one short sound: **sh**, not "s-h". Schools call these **digraphs** (two letters, one sound).

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Buddy hunt

You need: a picture book, or some food packets from the kitchen, and a pencil.

1. Open the book at any page, or pick up a packet.
2. Hunt for the letter buddies in the table. When you spot one, point to it and say its sound.
3. Make a mark in the table each time you find one. The grown-up can write one word you found.
4. Which buddy did you find the most?

Buddy	A mark each time I find it	A word we found
sh		
ch		
th		
ee		
oo		
ar		

Grown-ups: in real books buddies sometimes make a different sound (oo in *book* and *moon*). Just enjoy spotting them, and read the word aloud to your child.

3 Practise

A. Listen to the sound. Draw a ring round its letter buddy.

Grown-up says **sh**, as in fish

ch sh th

Grown-up says **ee**, as in sheep

oo ai ee

Grown-up says **ar**, as in park

ar or ai

Grown-up says **ng**, as in sing

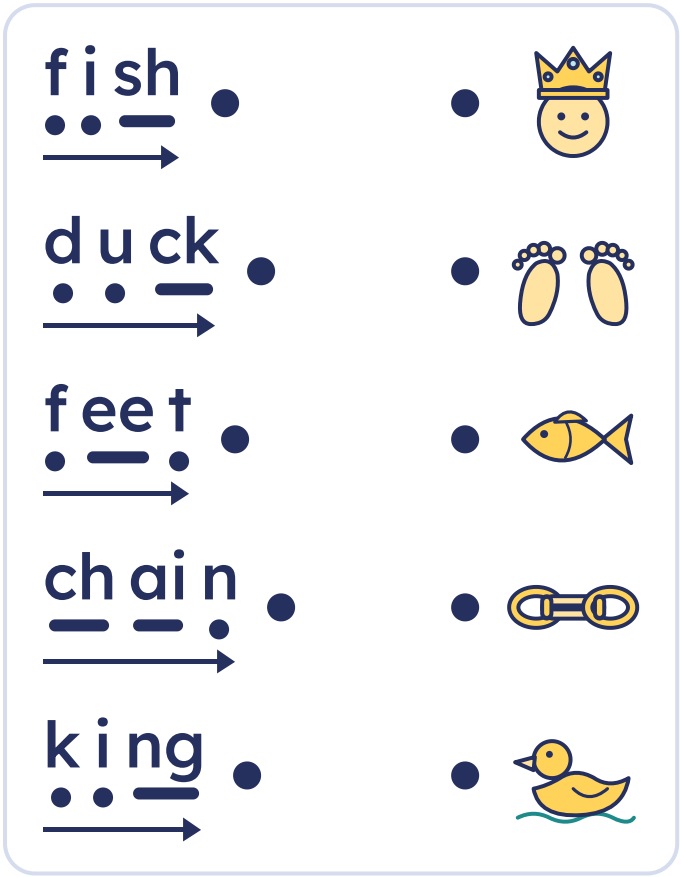
ck ng ch

Letter buddies

Scan to play this chapter in the game

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B. Read the buddy word. Draw a line to its picture.



C. Draw the sound buttons: a line for buddies, a dot for the others. How many sounds?

moon sounds: ☐	car sounds: ☐
sheep sounds: ☐	torch sounds: ☐

Challenge

ship

Mia reads this word as **s… h… i… p**. Is she right? How many sounds are in **ship**?

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ spot two letters that make one sound
- ☐ say the sound for sh, ch, th, ng, ck, ee, oo, ai, ar and or
- ☐ read buddy words like fish and car