Letter names: answers and notes

What your child practised: naming the letters of the alphabet, and knowing that a letter's name (bee) is different from its sound (b, as in bat). Year 1 spelling, national curriculum in England.

Page 1 · Warm up

g "**gee**" · j "**jay**" · h "**aitch**" · w "**double-you**" · y "**why**" · z "**zed**" · q "**queue**"

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check each name against the chart on page 1.

Page 2 · A. Sounds like a letter name

bee **b** · tea **t** · eye **i** · pea **p** · sea **c**

Sea is a tricky one: it sounds like "see", the name of c.

Page 3 · B. Ring the letter

1. **d** · 2. **p** · 3. **g** · 4. **j** · 5. **y**

Page 3 · C. Capital and small

B–**b** · G–**g** · Q–**q** · D–**d** · E–**e** · R–**r**

Page 3 · D. Write the letter

aitch **h** · double-you **w** · zed **z** · en **n** · ar **r**

Challenge: No. **sss** is the letter's **sound**. Its **name** is **"ess"**. Ask your child to say both, one after the other: "ess… sss".

Watch out for

- **Letters that look alike**, such as b and d, or p and q. Use the "bed" trick from page 1, and trace the letter with a finger while saying its name.
- **g and j.** Their names swap easily: g is "gee", j is "jay". Say "j is **jay**, like the start of **jam**" to help them hold on to it.
- **Picking a letter from a name's first sound.** "Why" starts with a w sound, but it is the name of **y**. "Double-you" is the name of w. Show the two letters side by side.
- **Saying the sound for the name.** Gently ask "That's its sound. What do we call it?"

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Number plates:** on a walk, read out the letters on a car's number plate using letter names.
- **Name or sound?** Say "em" or "mmm". Your child says "name!" or "sound!".
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Alphabet order: saying the letters from A to Z, puts all 26 letters in order.