Same sound, new letters: answers and notes

What your child practised: using letter names to tell apart different spellings of the same sound, such as e-e in tree and e-a in leaf, a-i and a-y, and f and p-h. Year 1 spelling, national curriculum in England.

Page 1 · Warm up

feet · meat · sheep · read

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers depend on the book. For example, a-i: rain, wait, tail, paint; a-y: day, play, say, away.

Page 2 · A. Sort the words

e-e: **see, tree, feet, sheep**
e-a: **sea, leaf, eat, bean**

Page 3 · B. Ring the right spelling

rain · boat · snow · phone · tree · leaf

Page 3 · C. a-i or a-y?

tr**ai**n · pl**ay** · s**ai**l · d**ay** · w**ai**t · tr**ay**

Page 3 · D. see or sea?

1. I can **see** a bird in the tree.
2. We swam in the **sea** at the beach.

Challenge: No. Leaf has the "ee" sound spelt **e-a** ("ee, ay"): **l-e-a-f**. Leef is a good try: e-e makes that sound too.

Watch out for

- **Picking the other spelling**, such as e-e in leaf or a-i in play. Both spellings make the sound; that word just uses the other one. Say its letters together with letter names.
- **f for p-h**, as in "fone". In phone, the "f" sound is spelt **p-h** ("pee, aitch"). Other p-h words: dolphin, alphabet, photo.
- **a-i at the end of a word.** English words almost never end in a-i, so the end of a word is a good clue for a-y.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Spot the letters:** on a walk or a shopping list, find "ee" words and say whether they use e-e or e-a.
- **Sound pairs:** say two words with the same sound, like boat and snow. Your child says the letters for each: "oh, ay" and "oh, double-you".
- **In the game:** this is the last chapter. Play it again to practise letter names and alphabet order.