Name _____ Date _____

Sneaky sound spellings

Some sounds use surprising letters. Learn the patterns!

1 Learn



Listen to **young**. It has an 'uh' sound, but it's spelt **ou**! Some words use sneaky letters for their sounds.



ou says 'uh'
young
touch
double



y says 'i'
gym
myth
pyramid



eigh, ey say 'ay'
eight
weigh
they



ch says 'k'
school
echo
chemist



ch says 'sh'
chef
machine
brochure

Worked example: spell **young**.

1. Say it slowly in sounds: y – 'uh' – ng.
2. Which sneaky pattern is the 'uh'? In this word it's **ou**.
3. Make a memory trick: "**you** are **you**ng". Write it: **young**.

Flip's tip: ch says 'k' in words that came from Greek (school, echo, chorus) and 'sh' in words that came from French (chef, machine).

Warm up: write the missing letters.

y ___ ng g ___ m ___ t (the number 8) s ___ ool

Grown-ups: these words can't be spelt just by sounding out. Say a word, ask "Which sneaky pattern is in it?", then write it together. Short, frequent practice works best.

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2 Try it together

a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes

Sound detectives

You need: a favourite book (or two) and a pencil.

1. Open the book at any page. Read a few lines together.
2. Hunt for words with a sneaky pattern: **ou** saying 'uh', **y** saying 'i', **eigh** or **ey** saying 'ay', or **ch** saying 'k' or 'sh'.
3. Write each word you find in the right column.
4. Read your list aloud. Which pattern did you find most?

ou = 'uh'	y = 'i'	eigh, ey = 'ay'	ch = 'k' or 'sh'
touch			

Grown-ups: if the book is short on these, try: country, trouble, cousin, mystery, neighbour, obey, character, stomach, chef.

3 Practise

A. Draw a ring round the correct spelling.

1. My cousin is too **yung / young** to ride a bike.
2. I have **ate / eight** crayons in my pencil case.
3. We play games in the **gym / jim**.
4. The **shef / chef** made carrot soup.
5. Please don't **tuch / touch** the wet paint.

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B. Sort the words into the table.

double **myth** **weigh** **echo** **machine** **trouble** **pyramid** **they** **school** **chef**

ou = 'uh'	y = 'i'	eigh, ey = 'ay'	ch = 'k'	ch = 'sh'

C. Finish each sentence with a word from the box.

neighbour **echo** **double** **machine** **country**

1. Our _____ has a friendly dog.
2. We shouted in the cave and heard an _____.
3. Four is _____ two.
4. The washing _____ is very noisy.
5. France is a _____ next to Spain.

Challenge

Leo wrote: **"There are ate legs on a spider."** Is his spelling right? What should he write, and how could he remember it?

_____

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ spell 'uh' with ou in young and touch
- ☐ spell 'ay' with eigh in eight
- ☐ use ch for 'k' in school and 'sh' in chef