When ou says u: answers and notes

What your child practised: hearing the letters ou making a short u sound (young, touch), and telling it apart from ou saying ow (cloud). Years 3–4 spelling.

Page 1 · Warm up

house **ow** · touch **u** · young **u** · shout **ow**

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers depend on the book. Check each tick by saying the word both ways.

Page 2 · A. Sort the words

ou says ow: **mouth, round, shout, found**
ou says u: **young, double, cousin, trouble**

Page 3 · B. Odd one out

touch · mouse · house

Page 3 · C. Rhyme time

Many answers. For example: touch: **much, such, hutch** · young: **sung, tongue, rung** · double: **bubble, rubble** · cousin: **dozen**

Page 3 · D. Underline and ring

Underline (u): **young, cousin, double, trouble**
Ring (ow): **found, mouse, house**

Challenge: No. ou often says ow (out, cloud, couch), but in some words it says u: **touch** rhymes with **much**. Other examples: young, double, trouble, country, cousin. Try the word both ways.

Watch out for

- **Reading every ou as ow** ("towch" for touch, "yowng" for young). Ask your child to try the u sound, and to listen for the word they know.
- **Other ou sounds.** ou can also say oo (you, soup), or (four, your) and short oo (could, would). These aren't wrong to notice: they just aren't today's sound.
- **Accents.** Some words sound a little different around the country. Go with how your family says them.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **ow or u?** Say an ou word. Your child puts hands up for ow, or touches their nose for u.
- **Silly sentence:** use lots of ou-says-u words: "My young cousin is in double trouble!"
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Spell u words with ou, practises spelling young, touch, double, trouble and country.