Name _____ Date _____

When ou says u

The letters ou don't always say ow. Sometimes they say u, as in young.

1 Learn

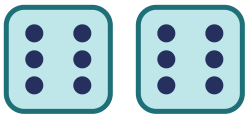


You know **ou** saying **ow**, as in **cloud**. But in some words, ou makes a short **u** sound, like the u in **cup**: **touch**, **young**, **double**.



cloud

ou says **ow**, as in cow



double

ou says **u**, as in cup

Does the ou in country say ow or u?

1. Split it into syllables and say each one: **coun – try**.
2. Try it with **ow**: "cow-ntry". That isn't a word we know.
3. Try it with **u**: "cun-try". Yes! So in country, **ou says u**.

Flip's tip: not sure? Say the word **both ways**, once with ow and once with u. The one that sounds like a real word is right.

Warm up: say each word. Does ou say **ow** or **u**? Write it in the box.

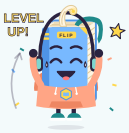
house ☐ **touch** ☐ **young** ☐ **shout** ☐

Grown-ups: say each word clearly and let your child copy you. Exaggerate the vowel: "t-u-u-ch" against "sh-ow-ow-t". Ask them to point to the letters making the sound.

Name _____ Date _____

2 Try it together

a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



ou word hunt

You need: a book your child likes (a story or a non-fiction book) and a pencil.

1. Open the book at any page. Look for words with **ou** in them, together.
2. Read each ou word aloud. Write it in the table.
3. Tick: does ou say **ow** (cloud), **u** (touch), or something else (like **you** or **four**)?
4. Keep hunting until you have found at least one ou saying u.

ou word I found	says ow	says u	something else

Grown-ups: ou saying ow is most common, so u words can take a little hunting. Good ones to look for: young, touch, country, cousin, double, trouble, enough. Words like "you", "your" and "could" have other sounds: that's fine, they go in the last column.

3 Practise

A. Say each word. Write it in the right box.

mouth young round double shout cousin found trouble

ou says ow, as in cloud

ou says u, as in touch

Name _____ Date _____

B. Odd one out! In each row, ring the word where **ou** makes a different sound.

cloud	**shout**	**touch**	**sound**
young	**double**	**mouse**	**country**
trouble	**couple**	**house**	**cousin**

C. Rhyme time. Write a word that rhymes with each ou word. Your rhyme will be spelt a different way!

touch rhymes with _____ **young** rhymes with _____

double rhymes with _____ **cousin** rhymes with _____

D. Read the sentence. Underline every **ou** that says **u**. Ring every **ou** that says **ow**.

My young cousin found a mouse in the house.
It was a double surprise, and we got into trouble!

Challenge

Leo reads **touch** so it rhymes with **couch**. He says, "ou always says ow, like in out." What would you tell him? Give two words to help.

_____

_____

I can... Tick when you can.

- ☐ hear when ou says u, as in young and touch
- ☐ tell ou saying u from ou saying ow
- ☐ try a word both ways to check