Vowels and consonants: answers and notes

What your child practised: knowing the five vowel letters (a, e, i, o, u), knowing that the other 21 letters are consonant letters, and spotting which kind a word starts with.

Page 1 · Warm up

octop**u**s (3) · ig**loo** (3)
umbrell**a** (3) · **a**nt (1)

Page 2 · Kitchen letter hunt

Answers will vary. For example: spoon, 2 vowel letters (o, o) and 3 consonant letters; kettle, 2 vowels and 4 consonants.

Page 2 · A. Sort the letters

Vowel letters: **a, e, o, i, u**
Consonant letters: **t, m, s, b, k, r, g**

Page 2 · B. Vowel words

Answers will vary, e.g. **a**nt, **e**gg, **i**nk, **o**range, **u**mbrella.

Page 3 · C. First letter

apple **V** · dog **C** · egg **V** · monkey **C**
insect **V** · table **C** · owl **V** · uncle **V**

Page 3 · D. Missing vowels

1. d**o**g · 2. s**u**n · 3. p**i**g · 4. b**e**d · 5. f**o**x

Challenge: No. There are 26 letters in the alphabet. 26 – 5 = **21**, so there are 21 consonant letters.

Watch out for

- **Calling a consonant letter a vowel**, often t, m or a letter in the child's name. Go back to the hand: a, e, i, o, u. Is it on your hand?
- **Mixing up letter names and sounds.** Here we're sorting the letters themselves. In Chapter 3 your child learns that the first *sound* matters most for a or an.
- **The letter y.** In some words y makes a vowel sound (my, gym), but it is still counted as a consonant letter in this work.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Vowel clap:** spell a word aloud letter by letter. Your child claps on every vowel letter.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Bump Bridge, uses the first sound of a word to choose a or an, like a dog and an egg.