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Vowels and consonants

The alphabet has two kinds of letters. Let's learn to tell them apart.

1 Learn



Our alphabet has **26 letters**. Just **5** of them are **vowel letters**: **a, e, i, o, u**. All the others are **consonant letters**.

a	b	c	d	**e**	f	g	h	**i**	j	k	l	m
n	**o**	p	q	r	s	t	**u**	v	w	x	y	z

☑ **5 vowel letters** ☐ **21 consonant letters**

Let's do one: find the vowel letters in *elephant*.

1. Look at each letter in turn: e, l, e, p, h, a, n, t.

2. Check each one against a, e, i, o, u. The vowel letters are **e**, **e** and **a**.

3. The other 5 letters (l, p, h, n, t) are consonant letters. 3 vowels + 5 consonants = 8 letters.

Flip's tip: hold up one hand. One finger for each vowel letter: **a, e, i, o, u**. Five fingers, five vowel letters! If it isn't on your hand, it's a consonant letter.

Warm up: draw a ring round every vowel letter.

octopus igloo umbrella ant

Grown-ups: say the vowel letters together a few times, using the letter names. Knowing them by heart helps in the next chapters, where your child chooses a or an by the first sound of a word.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Kitchen letter hunt

You need: this sheet, a pencil, and things in the kitchen (cups, spoons, food packets, a fork).

1. Choose 5 things in the kitchen. Write the name of each one in the table.
2. Draw a ring round each vowel letter in the name. Use your hand to check: a, e, i, o, u.
3. Count the vowel letters and the consonant letters, and write the numbers.
4. Which name has the most vowel letters? Which first letter is a vowel letter?

Name of the thing	Vowel letters	Consonant letters

Grown-ups: help with spelling the names if needed (spoon, kettle, apple, egg cup). Try to include something whose name starts with a vowel letter, like an apple, an orange or an egg.

3 Practise

A. Sort the letters. Write each one in the right box.

t a m e s o b i k u r g

Vowel letters

Consonant letters

B. Write a word that **starts with** each vowel letter.

a	e	i	o	u
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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C. Look at the **first letter** of each word. Write **V** for a vowel letter or **C** for a consonant letter.

apple ☐	**dog** ☐	**egg** ☐	**monkey** ☐
insect ☐	**table** ☐	**owl** ☐	**uncle** ☐

D. Each word is missing its vowel letter. Read the clue and write the missing vowel.

1. A pet that barks: **d** ___ **g**
2. It shines in the sky in the day: **s** ___ **n**
3. A farm animal that says oink: **p** ___ **g**
4. You sleep in it at night: **b** ___ **d**
5. A wild animal with a bushy tail: **f** ___ **x**

Challenge

Mia says, "There are 5 vowel letters, so there must be **20** consonant letters." Is she right? Show how you know.

_____

_____

I can... Tick when you can.

- ☐ name the 5 vowel letters: a, e, i, o, u
- ☐ say that all the other letters are consonant letters
- ☐ tell if a word starts with a vowel letter or a consonant letter