Segmenting Practice Pack

SOUND WAVES

About this pack

Use this pack to practise your segmenting skills with your colleagues. Simply work through Sets 1–6 before checking the answers and explanations on the following pages.

The complexity of the words gradually increases with each Set, but don't be tempted to reach straight for the answers! Be sure to discuss possible solutions with your colleagues before checking to see how you went.

Activity

Count the number of phonemes in the picture names, then segment the words into graphemes.
The first one has been done for you.

Set 1

Words	Phonemes	Graphemes					
	2	ch	air				

Set 2

Words	Phonemes	Graphemes					

Set 3

Words	Phonemes	Graphemes					
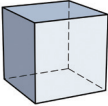
Set 4

Words	Phonemes	Graphemes					

Set 5

Words	Phonemes	Graphemes					

Set 6

Words	Phonemes	Graphemes					

Answers and Explanations

Set 1						
Words	Phonemes	Graphemes				
	2	ch	air			
	3	th	u	mb		
	3	sh	ir	t		
	4	c	l	o	ck	

Set 2					
Words	Phonemes	Graphemes			
	3	k	i	te	
	4	p	l	a	ne

Explanation: Split digraphs

A *digraph* is two letters representing one phoneme. For example, the letters **ea** in *team* represent the phoneme 🔊 ee e ea y ey . A *split digraph* is two letters representing one phoneme, but the two letters are split apart by another grapheme. When we segment a word with a split digraph, we show the split digraph using a curved line.

s	m	i	le

c	a	ke

v	o	te

a	th	l	e	te

SOUND WAVES

Set 3

Words	Phonemes	Graphemes				
	5	p	ai	n	t	er
	5	p	a	n	d	a

Explanation: The Schwa

The schwa is the most common vowel phoneme in English and is represented by the most graphemes. It's a weak sound, which makes it difficult to identify when you are first learning to segment. It's similar to the **u o** in *cup* but weaker. If you're speaking with an Australian English accent, it will be the last phoneme you hear when you say *mother* and *pasta*, and the first phoneme in *along* and *arrive*.

Set 4

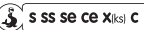| Words	Phonemes	Graphemes				
	4	b	o	x		
60	6	s	i	x	t	y

Explanation: Words where x represents two phonemes

The word *socks* has four phonemes (/**s**/**o**/**k**/**s**/). It has four graphemes to represent the four phonemes (**s**, **o**, **ck**, **s**).

s	o	ck	s

The word *fox* rhymes with *socks*. It has four phonemes too (/**f**/**o**/**k**/**s**/) but only three graphemes to represent those phonemes (**f**, **o**, **x**). The grapheme **x** represents the final two phonemes. We show this by writing the grapheme across two boxes.

f	o	x	

Using **x** as a way to represent the blend of the two phonemes **k c q ck x**(ks) **ch** **s ss se ce x**(ks) **c** is relatively common. Additional examples include:

n	e	x	t

e	x	p	r	e	ss

r	e	l	a	x	

| Set 5						
Words	Phonemes	Graphemes				
	4	q	u	ee	n	
	5	s	q	u	i	d

Explanation: Words with q and u

It's common for students to be taught that **qu** shows the 'sound' /**kw**/ at the start of words like *quit* and *question*. The problem is, there's no /**kw**/ phoneme in the English language. Words like *quit* and *question* actually start with a blend of two phonemes – k c q ck x(ks) ch w wh u . Students demonstrate an ability to hear these separate phonemes when they make spelling errors such as writing *kwit* for *quit*.
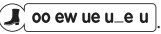
When we segment words containing **q** and **u**, we put the graphemes in separate boxes to acknowledge that each letter represents an individual phoneme. Here are a few examples where the **q** represents k c q ck x(ks) ch and the **u** represents w wh u .

q	u	i	t

r	e	q	u	e	s	t

s	q	u	i	sh

It's important to note that when teaching with Sound Waves, you can still explain to students that **q** and **u** 'go together' to show the blend k c q ck x(ks) ch w wh u . It's simply a matter of making sure students understand that each of these graphemes represents its own phoneme.

Set 6

Words	Phonemes	Graphemes				
🎵	6	m	u	s	i	c
(cube)	4	c	u	be		

Explanation: Words where a single grapheme represents 🅨 y u(yoo) 🅙 oo ew ue u_e u

The graphemes **u**, **ew**, **u_e** and **ue** often represent the phoneme 🅙 oo ew ue u_e u . For example, we can easily hear 🅙 oo ew ue u_e u in *flu*, *chew*, *flute* and *glue*. These words are also straightforward to segment.

| f | l | u | | ch | ew | | f | l | u | te | | g | l | ue |

The graphemes **u**, **ew**, **u_e** and **ue** can also represent a combination of the phonemes 🅨 y u(yoo) 🅙 oo ew ue u_e u . This situation is similar to when **x** represents two phonemes but a little more complex as there are a number of graphemes that can be used to show the two phonemes.

See if you can hear 🅨 y u(yoo) 🅙 oo ew ue u_e u when you say *emu*, *new*, *cute* and *argue*. If you're having trouble hearing both phonemes, say the words aloud but only use 🅙 oo ew ue u_e u and see if they sound correct. For example, *emu* without 🅨 y u(yoo) is 🐝 ee e ea y ey , 🌙 m mm mb , 🅙 oo ew ue u_e u .

When we segment words where 🅨 y u(yoo) 🅙 oo ew ue u_e u is shown by a single grapheme, we put that grapheme across two boxes.

| e | m | u | u | | n | e | w | w | | c | u | u | te | | ar | g | u | ue |