



Saying Irregular Vowel Combinations with "a"

You're reading with...



the giraffes!

Getting Ready - A Broad View of the Landscape Before You Begin



When you've gotten this far in the program, your safari mate has successfully mastered many important phonetic concepts. In fact, your reader has a solid understanding of the "core rules" of phonics and reading. Irregular vowel combinations are *exceptions* to the rules. In the Expeditions to Excellence system, we introduce over 30 irregular vowel combinations. We have divided them into five groups, categorized by each vowel.

Get your reader ready to learn each expedition by singing along to the *Irregular Vowels* song found on track 17. The lyrics to the song are printed on the next page. This song is unlike many of the others. It's not meant to teach a rule. Irregular vowels are exceptions to the rules! The song is simply a way to say, "Don't give up!" You'll learn irregular vowel combinations little by little, and you'll conquer them all, eventually.

Flash Card Set 16 is comprised of the first set of irregular vowel combinations. Each of the flash cards features a sound with the vowel "a" that does not "follow the rules". Instead, each of these combinations makes a unique sound. Some of the combinations include only vowels; some of the combinations include vowels with consonants. Each flash card provides an example of a word containing the sound. This will help in isolating and hearing the correct pronunciation of each irregular vowel combination. Model the irregular vowel sound and read the example of the word (so the student can hear the sound in a word). Then, say the irregular vowel sound again. Lastly, ask the student to say the sound independently. After all of the sounds have been mastered and the activities in this folder have been completed, you will be ready to embark on the next expedition.

Taking a Closer Look - Sample Dialogue to Help Direct Your Course

Tour Guide: "You know so many of the rules of reading now. Let's see. You know the One Vowel Rule and the Two Vowel Rule. You know the sounds of the letters and the long and short vowel sounds. Now that you know the rules, we're going to learn about some tricky things that are rule-breakers! They don't follow the regular rules. They are called irregular (which means not regular) vowel combinations. They're made up of combinations of the 5 vowels and consonants, but the combinations DO NOT follow any rules we've learned so far. We just need to learn and remember what the new combinations say."

Reader: "That sounds confusing!"

Tour Guide: "There are thirty of them in all, but I know they won't be hard for a smart student like you. We'll learn them a little at a time, in each expedition, and we won't give up. Let's listen to the song about them, shall we?"

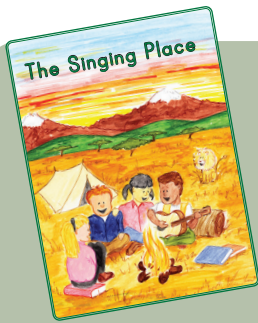


Have you ever stuck your tongue out at someone? It's not a very nice thing to do, is it? Well, imagine seeing a giraffe stick its tongue out at someone. A giraffe's tongue is 17 inches long!



Look how long 3 inches is. To find out how long a giraffe's tongue is, ask someone to get a yard stick or tape measure.



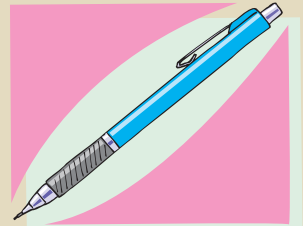


Irregular Vowels

Irregular vowels: exceptions to the rule.
 Irregular vowels: here's all you need to do:
 Don't give up! Don't give up!
 You will learn them in the end!
 Irregular vowels:
 They will be your irregular friends!

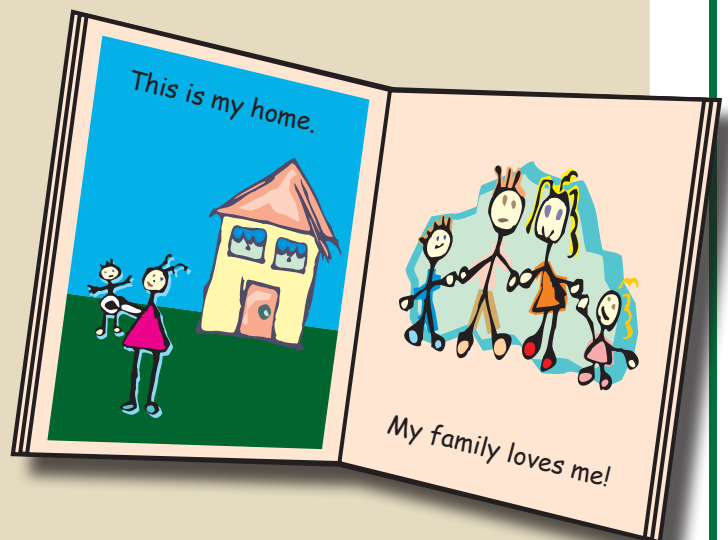
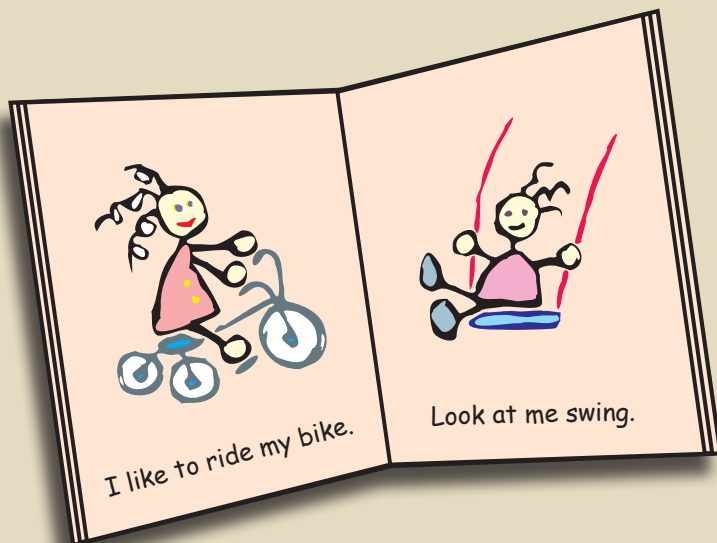
More Tips... for Tour Guides

Mechanical pencils are often useful for teaching an elementary school aged student not to press down too hard when writing. There are inexpensive, plastic, mechanical pencils sold in office supply stores. An additional benefit is that they never need to be sharpened and provide a nice clean line for writing. Many also have finger grips that facilitate proper pencil grip.



More Fun... for Friends

There are a number of companies that specialize in making cute little books, customized and printed with your child's name. You can make them easily yourself on any personal computer. Your reader will delight in seeing his or her name in print, and will enjoy helping to create the story of "My Life". Keep it short and simple, with a few sentences on each page. Print it out and ask your little Van Gogh to illustrate the pages you create together. Imagine your reader's proud smile when sharing it with others and showing off his or her reading ability!



What You'll Need to Pack for the Safari



You will need Flash Card Set 16 and the *Irregular Vowels* song (track 17).

Results to Achieve During Your Expedition



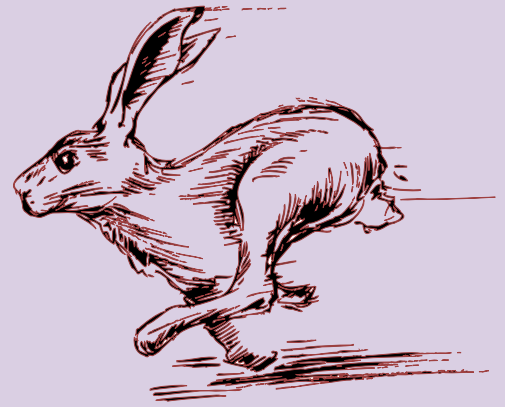
The reader will have an understanding of what an irregular vowel is, and will be able to independently demonstrate how to pronounce the following irregular vowel groupings: "aw", "ay", "au", "al", "air", "all", "are".

Jungle Journal

Accomplished with Excellence	Expedition Activities:
	Reader imitates "aw" (as in "jaw") sound, modeled by the Tour Guide
	Reader imitates "ay" (as in "play") sound, modeled by the Tour Guide
	Reader imitates "au" (as in "launch") sound, modeled by the Tour Guide
	Reader imitates "al" (as in "salt") sound, modeled by the Tour Guide
	Reader imitates "air" (as in "chair") sound, modeled by the Tour Guide
	Reader imitates "all" (as in "ball") sound, modeled by the Tour Guide
	Reader imitates "are" (as in "share") sound, modeled by the Tour Guide
	Reader says "aw" sounds from flash card independently
	Reader says "ay" sounds from flash card independently
	Reader says "au" sounds from flash card independently
	Reader says "al" sounds from flash card independently
	Reader says "air" sounds from flash card independently
	Reader says "all" sounds from flash card independently
	Reader says "are" sounds from flash card independently
	Reader listens to the <i>Irregular Vowels</i> song on track 17
	Reader completes Funsheets (instructions to be read by Tour Guide)
	Reader draws a star on the Safari Success Trail, in space number 40 (check off Jungle Journal in the backpack to advance)



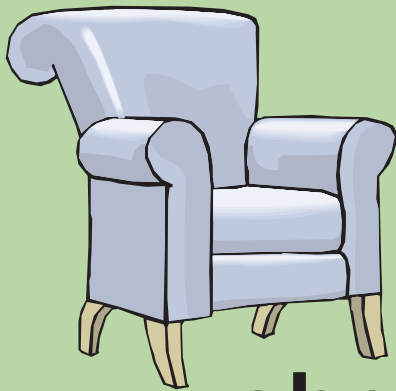
hair



hare



These irregular vowel combinations have the same sounds when they are hidden in words. It is the sound heard in these things. Say the names of these things out loud.



chair

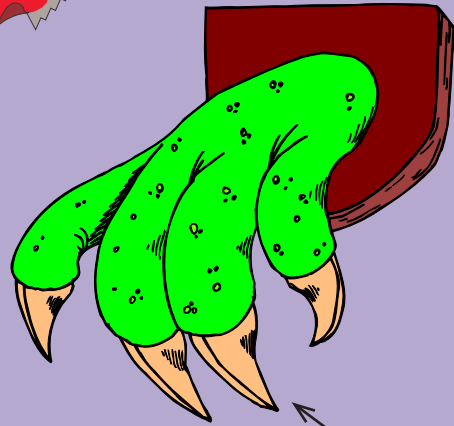
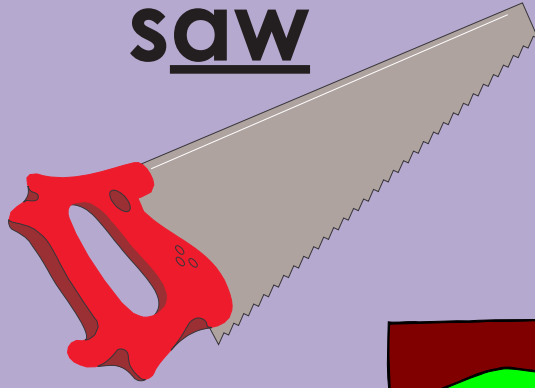


bare

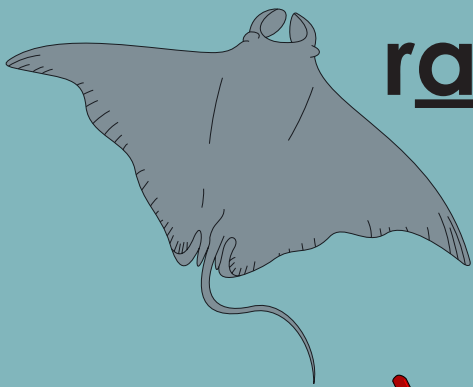
_air

_are

saw



claw



ray



hay

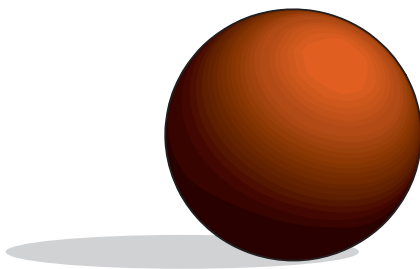




Can you blend the beginning sounds of these letters with "all" to make new words?

Give it a try! Say these aloud.

"all" is the sound heard in the word "ball".



c → all



f → all



h → all



m → all



t → all



w → all

