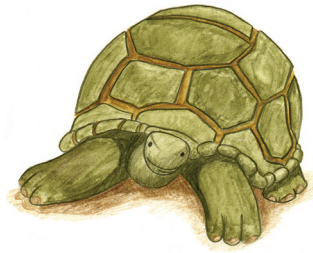




Blending Sounds with Short "a"

You're
reading
with...



the tortoises!

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



Your reader has mastered beginning sounds and long and short vowel sounds. Do not move on unless you are confident that there is a strong understanding of long and short vowels. You can continue to review the long and short vowel exercises in the last expedition. Before embarking on this expedition, there is one fundamental rule that should be learned in order to begin learning how to blend letter sounds.

It's this:

When there's only one vowel in a word you're reading, then that vowel is probably short.

This is the general rule to keep in mind as your safari mate learns to blend letters and read. Much later, we will introduce the exceptions to this rule. "The One Vowel Rule" song is short and sweet, and catchy too! You will find the song on track 7 of the CD and the accompanying lyrics on one of the following pages of this expedition.

After your reader understands the one vowel rule, he or she is ready to blend letter combinations. All of the combinations presented in this expedition will have the *short* sound of the vowel, *because there is only one vowel*. As all of the "a" sounds are mastered, you will move on in the same manner, teaching the other vowels in order - "e", "i", "o" and "u", in the next 4 expeditions.

We want to offer a few helpful suggestions as you teach blending sounds. Blending letters should be done as smoothly as possible. Model each sound for your reader aloud, never "stopping" between the letters, but instead, drawing the sounds out to blend them together. Use your index finger in blending these letters together:

"at"

Think of your finger as a runner, running at a steady pace from one letter to the next. It should make this sound: "aaaaattt".

"at" says "aaaaattt"

"an" says "aaaannnn"

That "runner" (your blending finger) does not hop from letter to letter. If it did, the sound would be broken and disjointed. This would be an incorrect way to blend letters.

"aaaa + nnnn"

For more help with blending, listen to the examples provided for you on track 31 of the CD before beginning the blending activities. When you understand the methods for blending letters, follow these simple steps to teach this expedition.

As you introduce *The Reading Place*, read the poem on its front cover aloud. Talk about the book and what a special and wonderful place it truly is.

Step 1 Turn to page 29 in *The Reading Place*. This page contains consonants paired with the short sound of "a". Ask your reader to "blend these letters" after you model each combination for them.

Step 2 After practicing each sound *together*, ask the reader to blend the letter combinations independently. Repeat this over and over again until you are certain each list has been mastered. When the letter combinations indicated on the Jungle Journal for Reading Expeditions 9 have all been mastered, you should proceed to Reading Expedition 10.

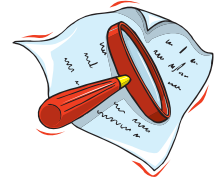
(When the five blending sounds expeditions have been completed for *all* of the vowels, your safari mate will embark on an exciting and wonderful adventure into the world of reading words! It won't be long...so be patient!)

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

Tour Guide: "Today is a special day. Do you know why?"

Reader: "No, why?"

Tour Guide: "Well, you have been doing such a good job learning all of the letters and their sounds, that you advance to the next level with the tortoises now. We're going to learn how to blend letters next. We'll listen to the Audio Guide and then we'll go *The Reading Place* together."



Reader: "Okay."

Tour Guide: "Let's choose an imaginary place out on the savannah, where we take a rest from our jungle safari, to fill our minds with words, and to fill our time together with fun. We can pretend that we're sitting right under this special baobab tree, reading to the safari animals all around us! (Looks at the cover of *The Reading Place* together.)"

Each of the lists in *The Reading Place* has a special star at the bottom of the list. When you can read all of the sounds and words on each list, we can color in the star and graduate to the next list."

Reader: "I like doing that!"

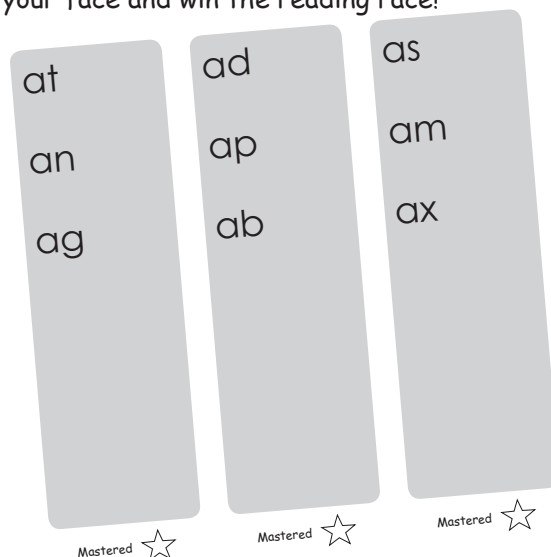
Tour Guide: "So do I! We're going to work on the first list soon, but before we do that, let's read the poem on page 29. We have a new song to learn and a lesson to listen to, also!"

(Tour Guide reads the poem aloud and listens to the new song and Audio Guide lesson with reader. Tour Guide talks about the one-vowel rule. Then, the Tour Guide moves along to blending sounds with the short "a" sound featured in *The Reading Place*.)

Tour Guide: "We're going to take our index finger and blend some letters together to make sounds. All of the sounds we're going to blend today have the short 'a' sound. What does the short 'a' say?"

Reader: "The short 'a' says 'aah'."

Tour Guide: "That's right. Now, let's take that sound and mix it with the letter right next to it. I'll try a few, then you can try them, too. So, little tortoise, don't crawl into your shell now! Keep that smile on your face and win the reading race!"



Tortoises found on the African savannah can weigh as much as a fully-grown person, about 130 to 250 pounds!



More Tips...

for Tour Guides

Have you ever read the wonderful books of Dr. Seuss? If you have, you know how zany and crazy some of the rhymes are. For decades, children have listened to them being read, over and over again, by parents and teachers, generation after generation, without a moment of boredom or discontent. You can make everyday words as much fun as Dr. Seuss! Make up crazy, nonsense rhymes with your reader. It's all part of teaching that language, words and reading can be full of joy and fun.

More Fun... for Friends

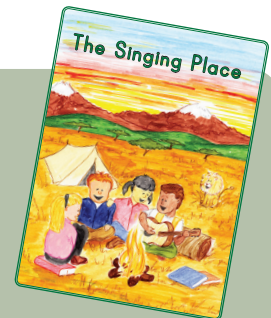
Paper Bag Puppets!

Try this!

Make brown paper bag (lunch bag) puppets of the letters or the vowels (especially any letters with which your reader may be having consistent difficulty). Put the letter on the front of the bag and make silly faces on the part that "talks". Then, play games with the puppets, asking, "What does Mr. 'A' say?" (or any other letter you may choose).



The One Vowel Rule



If there's only one vowel in a word you're reading, then that vowel is probably short (short).

If there's only one vowel in a word you're reading, then that vowel is probably short (short).

What You'll Need to Pack for the Safari



You will need the Audio Guide Lesson (on track 31 of the CD), "The One Vowel Rule" song (on track 7 of the CD), *The Reading Place* (pages 29-30) and unlimited patience.

Results to Achieve During Your Expedition











The reader will understand the one vowel rule and will be able to independently blend the sounds listed in *The Reading Place* that contain short "a". He or she will be able to sing along to "The One Vowel Rule" song and will understand how to blend letters and their sounds.

Jungle Journal

Accomplished with Excellence	Expedition Activities:
	Reader listens to "The One Vowel Rule" song on track 7 of the CD
	Reader practices blending letters, as demonstrated, by the Audio Guide on track 31 of the CD
	Reader blends the "at" sound found in <i>The Reading Place</i> , page 30
	Reader blends the "an" sound found in <i>The Reading Place</i> , page 30
	Reader blends the "ag" sound found in <i>The Reading Place</i> , page 30
	Reader blends the "ad" sound found in <i>The Reading Place</i> , page 30
	Reader blends the "ap" sound found in <i>The Reading Place</i> , page 30
	Reader blends the "ab" sound found in <i>The Reading Place</i> , page 30
	Reader blends the "as" sound found in <i>The Reading Place</i> , page 30
	Reader blends the "am" sound found in <i>The Reading Place</i> , page 30
	Reader blends the "ax" sound found in <i>The Reading Place</i> , page 30
	Reader completes Funsheets (instructions to be read by Tour Guide)
	Reader places a sticker or draws a star on the Safari Success Trail poster, in space number 9



Harry loves to blend letters. He knows that the best way to blend letters is to run from one letter sound to the next without stopping. Help Harry blend the letters below by drawing his running path with a pencil or marker. Blend the sound aloud as you draw your line. The first one is done for you. Practice it over and over again, using your finger over top of the line you have drawn.

	a	—————	t	at
	a	- - - - -	n	an
	a	- - - - -	g	ag
	a	- - - - -	d	ad
	a	- - - - -	p	ap
	a	- - - - -	b	ab
	a	- - - - -	m	am
	a	- - - - -	x	ax

Look what happens when we add other letters to our blended sounds!
You'll learn more about making these and other words soon. For
now, have fun just blending the sounds with your blending finger!



c → at



cat

b → ag



bag

v → an



van

c → ap



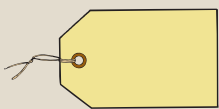
cap

b → at



bat

t → ag



tag

m → an



man