



Saying Vowels Controlled by the Letter "r"

You're
reading
with...



the tigers!

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



Learning words with vowels controlled by the letter "r" can be a bit tricky. Three of these letter combinations ("er", "ir" and "ur") sound *exactly* the same. We suggest that you teach these three letter combinations first as one "set", explaining that each combination in the set is pronounced the same way. Teach "ar" and "or" (as a second "set") after the first three letter combinations (set 1) are mastered.

Locate Flash Card Set 21. Begin, as you have in other expeditions, by saying each letter combination aloud with your child. Next, ask your reader to read each letter combination from the flash card on his or her own. (Teach the cards grouped in two sets as described above, mastering one set at a time.) Try this several times, always presenting the flash cards in each set in random order. When all sounds are mastered, progress to Reading Expedition 51, "Reading Words with Vowels Controlled by the Letter 'r'".

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

Tour Guide: "Today we're going to learn what happens when we put the letter 'r' next to each of the vowels. How many vowels are there?"

Reader: "Five - a, e, i, o, u."

Tour Guide: "That's right. So, if we add the letter 'r' after each letter, like this (lays down the five flash cards facing the child) you would think we'd get five different sounds, wouldn't you?"

Reader: "Yes."

Tour Guide: "Well, the 'e', 'i' and 'u' all say the same thing when we add the letter 'r'. They all say 'ur'. Will you hold the three 'urs'?"

Reader: "Yes." (Child holds the three cards; "ir", "er" and "ur")

Tour Guide: "There are two other sounds remaining. I'll hold them in my hands. They are 'ar' and 'or'. Look at your cards and say them out loud."

Reader: "'ir', 'ur', 'er'. That's easy!"

Tour Guide: "Now, I'll read mine - 'ar', 'or'. Now, let's read them together once and then you can try them all on your own! (Tour Guide and child read all the letter combinations together. Then the child reads them independently. Tour Guide shuffles the cards so that the child learns to read the letter combinations in random order.) Sometimes these letter combinations hide themselves in words. It'll be our job to be word detectives in the next expedition. We'll find the sounds and read the words that contain them."



Did you know that tigers are related to the cats we have as pets? Well, they are. But the kinds of cats we have in our homes are the only kinds of cats that are friendly to people.



Which three sounds sound exactly alike?
Circle them.

ar

ir

or

ur

er

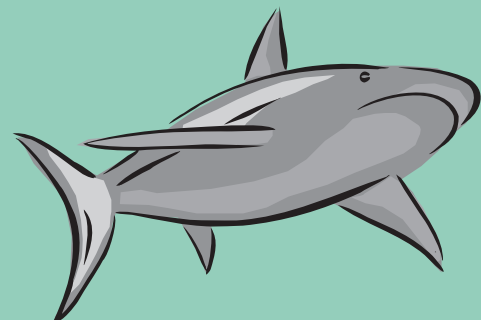
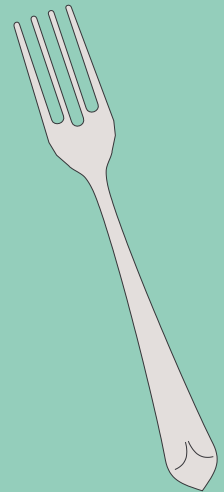
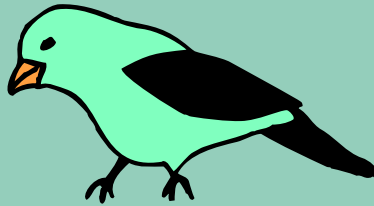
Draw a line from the sounds in the blocks to the objects below that have those sounds.



ir

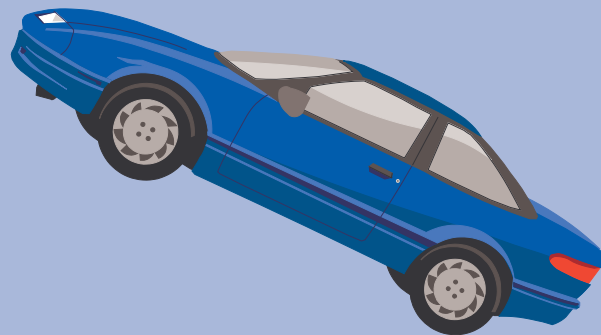
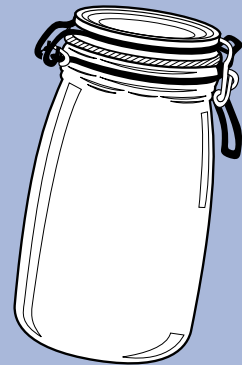
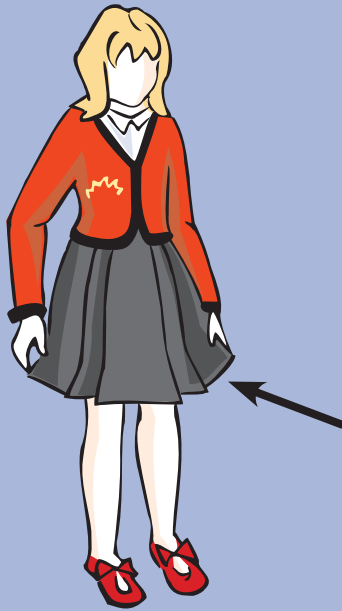
or

ar



Circle the pictures below that have the sounds of "ar" and "or".

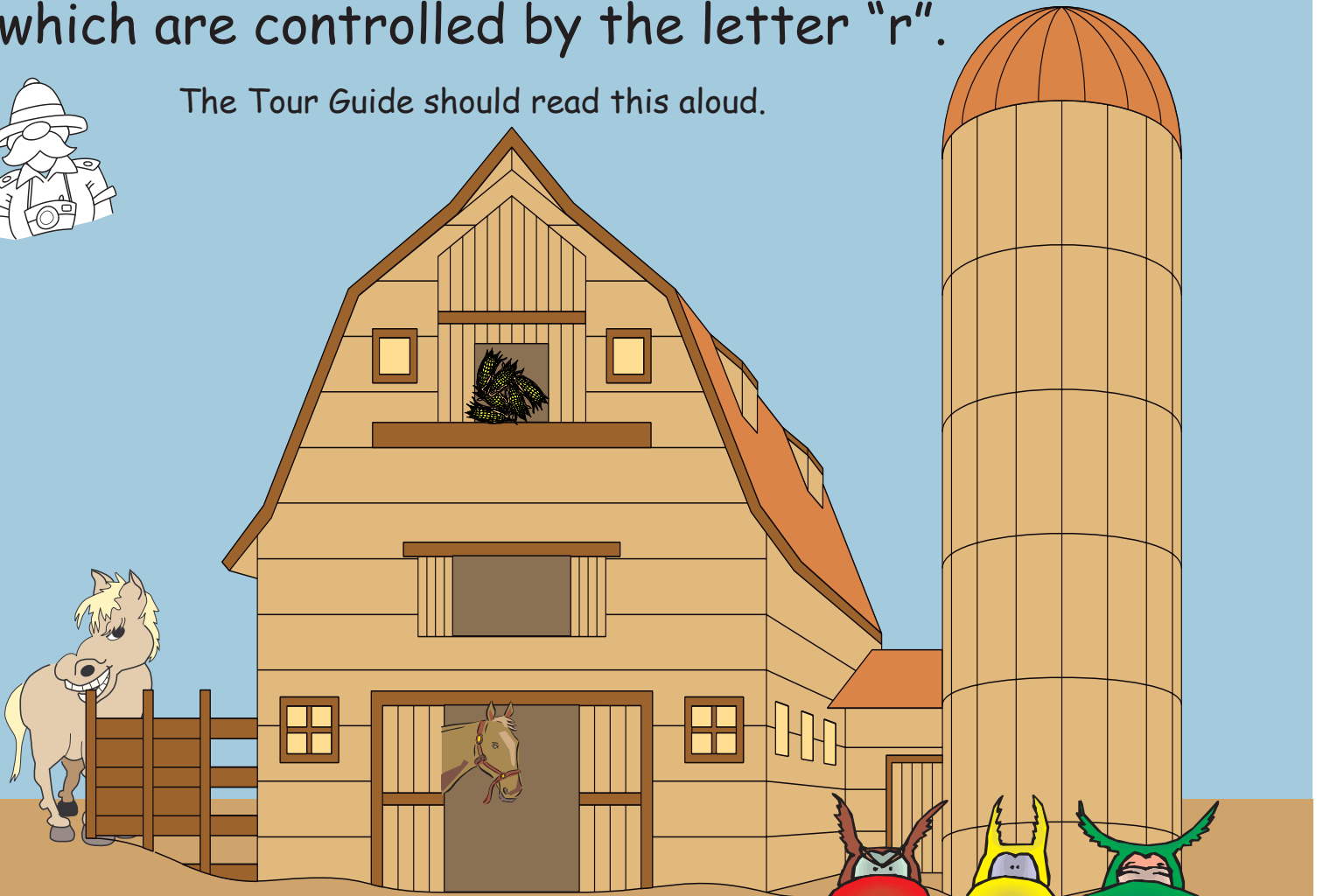
Do not circle pictures that have the sounds of "er", "ir" and "ur".



Here's a poem using the vowel sounds
which are controlled by the letter "r".



The Tour Guide should read this aloud.



"ir", "er" and "ur",
Dragons of great fame,
They all looked different
But they sounded just the same.

They lived outside a barn
(Which had the "ar" sound).
They couldn't go inside
'Cause their tummy was too round!

The horses all were glad
Those dragons were not split.
Only "or" things
Inside that barn would fit!

Can you find the 2 "or"
things inside the barn?

(horses, corn)