



The "Lonely" Vowel at the End of a Syllable

You're
reading
with...



the ostriches!

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



Rule: If a vowel is the only vowel in a word or syllable, and it is alone at the *end* of a word or syllable, it will usually say its *long* sound.

The lonely vowel rule is helpful not only when reading small, one-syllable words, but also when reading multi-syllabic words as well. Look for instance, at these examples:

go va - ca - tion

As your reader progresses to learning more complicated, multi-syllabic words, knowing the Lonely Vowel Rule will be a tremendous help in deciphering those words. Of course, we've written a song to help learn the rule for this expedition! It can be found on track 25. It is called *The Lonely Vowel at the End* song. The lyrics are on the next page to help you sing along with the music.

This rule is different than the One Vowel Rule! Make sure your reader knows that this rule *only* applies when the vowel is at the *end* of the word or syllable, and when it is the *only* vowel in a word or syllable.

Turn to page 221 in *The Reading Place* and read the poem on the cover page. Read the words containing a "lonely" vowel with your safari mate. Then, ask your reader to read the words, without your help. He or she will have already mastered many of the words as sight words in previous expeditions. Understanding the "lonely" vowel rule will be of great importance as your reader's skills advance. At the end of the word list, are other words, broken down by syllables that also contain lonely vowels. *Do not ask your reader to read these.* Instead, read them aloud to your safari mate and show him or her the words. Explain how a lonely vowel can appear as part of a small, one syllable word and also at the end of a syllable, as part of larger words. Exceptions to this rule are also indicated at the end of the word list.

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

Tour Guide: "We have another new song to sing. It's called 'The Lonely Vowel at the End' song. Before we listen to it, I'd like to tell you what it's all about. Okay?"

Reader: "Okay."

Tour Guide: "Whenever a word, or a syllable in a word has only one vowel, and that word or syllable *ends* with a vowel, we usually say the *long* sound of the vowel."

Reader: "I don't understand what you mean."

Tour Guide: "Let's look at a few words. (Tour Guide takes a pen and a pad of paper and writes these following words on it.) Look at the word 'he'. There's only one vowel in this word. According to the 'One Vowel Rule', the vowel would be short - right?"

Reader: "Right."

Tour Guide: "Well, that rule applies to one syllable words *unless* the vowel is the *only* vowel in the word and it's at the end of the word. When it's at the end, it says the *long* sound."

Reader: "I get it!"



Ostriches
live in flocks of
up to about 50 and are
frequently found grazing
among antelope and
zebras.



Tour Guide: "The same rule is used with syllables within a larger word. If you look at this word,

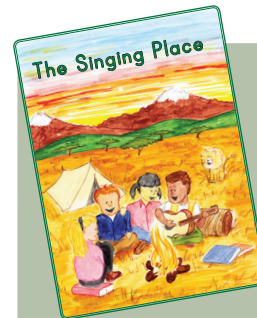
va - ca - tion

'vacation'

you can see that there is a vowel at the end of each syllable that makes a long sound. Can you clap the syllables in the word vacation? (The reader claps.) The words in *The Reading Place* for this expedition are easy. In fact, you've already learned many of them. We'll look at them together and try to find the "lonely" vowels and we'll try to understand this very important rule."

More Tips... for Tour Guides

When you drive by (or hopefully, visit) your local public library do you ever wonder how America's system of public libraries became established? You might be surprised to learn that one very great and famous American, Benjamin Franklin, encouraged the foundation of public libraries. Franklin, in the company of many other colonial Americans recognized the great importance of an educated citizenry, and helped to develop a quite remarkable educational system in early America. By the time of the Revolutionary War, Americans, on the whole, were more literate than any people in the world.



The Lonely Vowel at the End

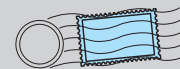
When there's only one vowel
In a syllable or word,
And that vowel is on the end,
Now, which sound can be heard?
Oh, it usually makes the long sound.
Oh, that's just the way it goes!

When there's only one vowel
In a syllable or word,
And that vowel is on the end,
Now, which sound can be heard?
It usually makes the long sound, oh.
Oh, that's just the way it goes!

Dear Safari Friends,

Practice makes perfect! It's time to review Expeditions 55-61 in *The Reading Place*. There are a lot of different concepts covered in this review, so take your time and make sure you've got it right. Then, join the flocks of flamingos that are tickled pink about your ability to read!

As always, you're doing great!





When there is only one vowel in a word or syllable, and the vowel is on *the end*, it usually has a long sound (sounds like the vowel's name).

Read the words below. All of them have *one* syllable and *one* vowel. The vowel is on the end of the word, so in each of these words the vowel says the long sound. When the vowel is the only vowel in a syllable or word, and it is at the end of the syllable or word, it is called the lonely vowel.

be hi he go

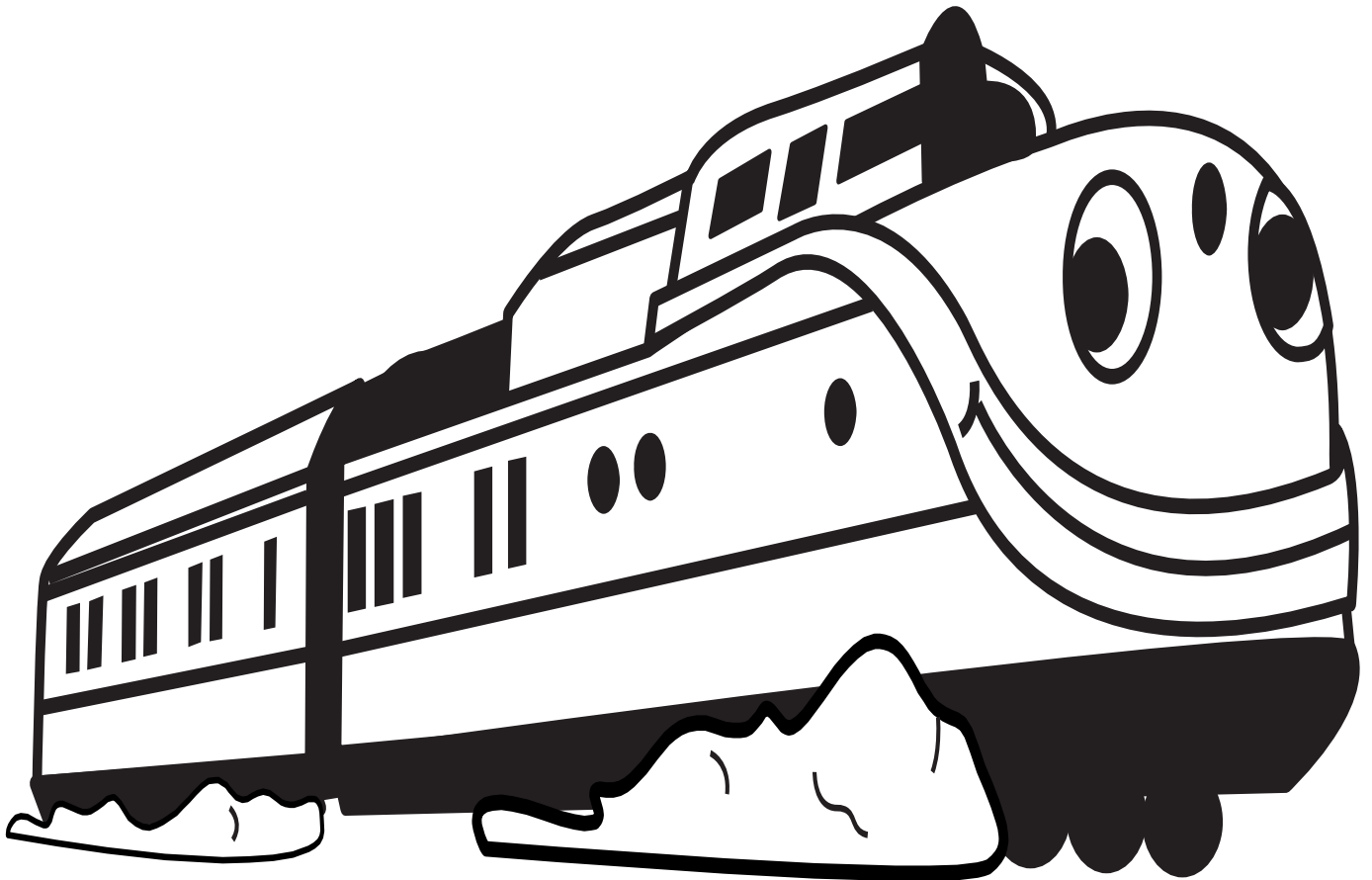
me no she so

we lo ye

This picture shows something that has three lonely vowels in its name. Color the picture and look at the name below.



locomotive



lo-co-mo-tive



The "Lonely Vowel Rule" applies to words with more than one syllable, also. When a word with two or more syllables is broken apart by its syllables, the vowels that appear at the end of a syllable usually will say the long sound. Here are some examples to try. More examples are provided in *The Reading Place*.



halo
(ha-lo)



hello
(hell-o)



cucumber
(cu-cum-ber)

dial
(di-al)



below (be-low)



solo
(so-lo)