

Vowel Teams ai, ay, ee, ea, and oa

How to use: Print first for the main practice. Then use the device to repeat activities and save progress.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Recognize the vowel teams ai, ay, ee, ea, and oa
- 2 Say the long vowel sound each team makes
- 3 Sort words into the correct vowel team group

MINI LESSON

When two vowels team up inside a word, they usually work together to make just one long vowel sound — that is why we call them vowel teams!

ai and ay — the long /a/ team

- ai usually appears in the middle of a word.
- Example: rain, snail, trail.
- ay usually appears at the end of a word.
- Example: play, stay, day.

ee and ea — the long /e/ team

- ee and ea both say the long /e/ sound.
- Example: tree, bee, leaf, read.

oa — the long /o/ team

- oa usually appears in the middle of a word.
- Example: road, toad, boat.

VOCABULARY

Vowel team	Two vowel letters sitting next to each other that work together to make one long vowel sound <i>e.g. ai in rain, ee in tree, oa in road</i>
Long vowel	A vowel that says its own name — long /a/, long /e/, long /o/ <i>e.g. the /a/ in play, the /e/ in leaf, the /o/ in boat</i>
Middle sound	The sound you hear in the middle of a short word; for vowel teams, it is the long vowel sound the two letters make together <i>e.g. the /a/ in the middle of rain</i>
Ending sound	The sound you hear at the end of a word; ay often appears at the end of a word <i>e.g. the /a/ at the end of day and play</i>

Vowel Teams

ai

ay

-> long /a/
rain . play . trail

ee

ea

-> long /e/
tree . leaf . feet

oa

-> long /o/
road . toad . boat

Spot the vowel team!

r

ai

n

-> long /a/

tr

ee

-> long /e/

r

oa

d

-> long /o/

Two vowels working together = one long vowel sound

! Ask yourself: "Can I spot the two vowels working together? What long vowel sound do they make?"

GUIDED PRACTICE — MINI-BOOK

MINI-BOOK

Rain on the Trail

PAGE 1

One day, the rain came down on the trail. Gail and Ray put on their coats and went outside. "Stay on the path!" said Ray. What vowel team words can you find on this page? What sound does ai make in "rain"?

1

PAGE 2

They walked along the muddy road. A snail left a trail on a wet leaf. A toad sat still beside the road. What vowel sound is in "toad"? What vowel sound is in "leaf"?

2

PAGE 3

A bee flew from tree to tree. It landed on a green leaf and rested in the soft rain. "The bee does not mind the rain at all," said Ray. Find two ee or ea words. Say them out loud. What long vowel sound do they make?

3

PAGE 4

At last, the rain stopped. The sun came out and lit up the wet trail. "What a great day!" said Gail. They walked home the same way they came, happy and full of mud. How many vowel team words can you count in the whole story?

4

~ The End ~

EXERCISES — SORT & MATCH

Write each word under the correct vowel team column.

WORDS TO SORT

rain tree toad snail leaf road stay bee boat play feet coat wait
 read goat trail dream soap

ai / ay (long /a/)

ee / ea (long /e/)

oa (long /o/)

"Flip the page upside down to see the answer key"

ai / ay (long /a/): rain, snail, stay, play, wait, trail | ee / ea (long /e/): tree, leaf, bee, feet, read, dream | oa (long /o/): toad, road, boat, coat, goat

deos

EXERCISES — MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which vowel team do you see in the word rain?

- ea
- ai
- oa

2. Which word has the ee vowel team?

- coat
- play
- tree

3. The word road has which vowel team?

- ay
- ea
- oa

4. Which word belongs in the ay group?

- leaf
- stay
- load

5. Which word has the ea vowel team?

- boat
- leaf
- rain

6. What long vowel sound do ai and ay both make?

- Long /e/
- Long /o/
- Long /a/

7. Which word has the oa vowel team?

- feet
- snail
- boat

8. What do the vowel teams ee and ea have in common?

- They both make the long /a/ sound.
- They both make the long /e/ sound.
- They both make the long /o/ sound.

9. Which word belongs in the ee group?

- toad
- wait
- feet

10. A vowel team is when ____

- two vowels work together to make one long vowel sound.
- two consonants join to make a new sound.
- a word has only one vowel letter.

"Flip the page upside down to see the answer key"

1. b 2. c 3. c 4. b 5. b 6. c 7. c 8. b 9. c 10. a

ASSESSMENT

PARENT / TEACHER CHECKLIST

- Reads ai and ay words aloud with a clear long /a/ sound (e.g., says "rain" and "play" correctly).
- Reads ee and ea words aloud with a clear long /e/ sound (e.g., says "tree" and "leaf" correctly).
- Reads oa words aloud with a clear long /o/ sound (e.g., says "road" and "toad" correctly).
- Sorts vowel team words into the correct buckets (ai-ay, ee-ea, or oa) without help.