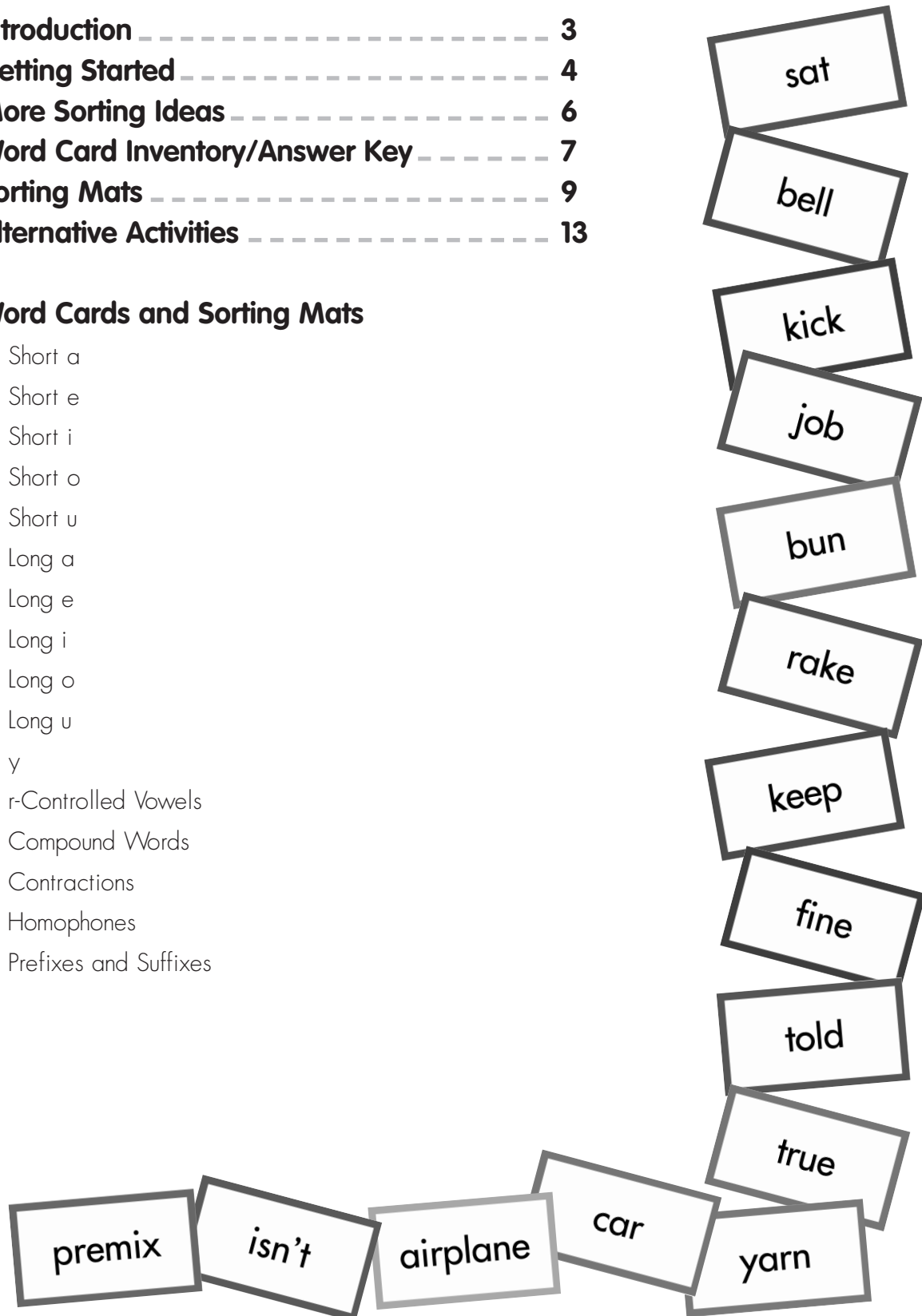


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## Word Cards and Sorting Mats

Short a  
Short e  
Short i  
Short o  
Short u  
Long a  
Long e  
Long i  
Long o  
Long u  
y  
r-Controlled Vowels  
Compound Words  
Contractions  
Homophones  
Prefixes and Suffixes



# Introduction

sat

wasn't

happiness

Sorting is a valuable activity in word study. Sorting activities are highly effective in teaching children to find patterns that make decoding easier. A word sort is an activity that requires children to group words into different categories. Through word sorting, children will learn how to decode by analogy (comparing similarities and differences), differentiate word and spelling patterns, and recognize the relationship between letters (graphemes) of written language and the individual sounds (phonemes) of spoken language. With these phonics skills, children will be able to decode new words and identify familiar words quickly and accurately, which will lead to proficient reading.

Everything you need to introduce sorting to your children is here in this handy resource! You'll find pre-made word cards and sorting mats to guide children through the sorting process, as well as a variety of activity ideas. Word sorting is easy to integrate into your curriculum because all the materials are provided and the sorts do not require much direct teaching. Just punch out the cards and you're ready to go! Have children participate in a closed sort to teach and/or assess a particular concept or an open sort to allow children to determine the ways in which certain words are categorized.

Extend children's learning by having them write the words on one of the reproducible sorting mats. Children will make a connection between spoken sounds and their corresponding letters or letter groups. These simple sorting activities can supply the missing link that your children need to "crack the code" of written language.

The sorting activities can be used for whole-class instruction, individual work, cooperative groups, learning centers, and parent involvement. So wait no longer; start word sorting today! Engage children in learning as they explore words and phonemes through hands-on experiences and learn how words truly work!



# More Sorting Ideas

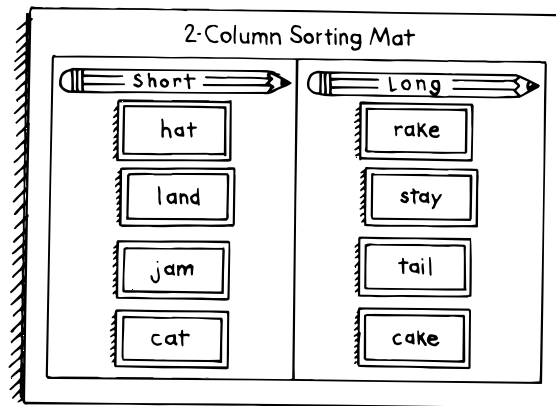
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## Short or Long Vowel Sort

Combine all the red trimmed cards. Give children the set of cards and a 2-Column Sorting Mat reproducible (page 9). Have children label one column *Short* and the other *Long*. Then, invite them to sort the cards by short or long *a* vowel sounds. Have children repeat the activity with the blue (short/long *e*), green (short/long *i*), purple (short/long *o*), and orange (short/long *u*) cards.



## Speed Sorts

Time each child as he or she completes one of the sorting activities. For fun the child can keep track of his or her time and repeat the sort to try to complete it in a shorter time.

## Beginning Sounds

Give children a set of word cards, and ask them to sort the cards by beginning consonant sounds.

## Number of Phonemes

Give children a set of word cards, and have them sort the cards by the number of phonemes (sounds) in each word.

## Word Length

Give children a set of word cards, and ask them to sort the cards by the number of letters in each word. For example, the sorting can consist of three-letter words, four-letter words, and five-letter words.

## Syllables

Give children a set of word cards, and have them sort the cards by the number of syllables in each word.

## Parts of Speech

Give children a set of word cards, and ask them to sort the cards into two groups: nouns and verbs.

# Short o Word Cards

job

mob

cob

slob

rob

clock

rock

sock

block

lock

stock

shop

top

mop

drop

stop

lot

pot

dot

hot

not

# Short o Sorting Mat

