



PHONICS & READING PROGRAM

UNIT 1

Short a CVC Words

Practice with Millie



A seven-page companion printable for Unit 1 of the Two Sisters Legacy Phonics & Reading Program.

EXPLICIT BLENDING

Sound by sound

ZANER-BLOSER

Correct letter formation

READ & CHECK

Controlled text

Clear steps. Meaningful practice. Growing confidence.

TWO SISTERS LEGACY

For one household or one individual educator/tutor. Do not redistribute or resell.



Short a

a = /ă/ short a

1. Say the short-a sound.



SHORT A SAYS /ă/

Say it as in apple.

cat

map

hat

jam

2. Listen for short a.

Say each word. Circle the words with /ă/.

sun

map

pig

cat

bed

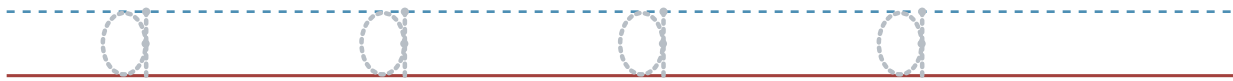
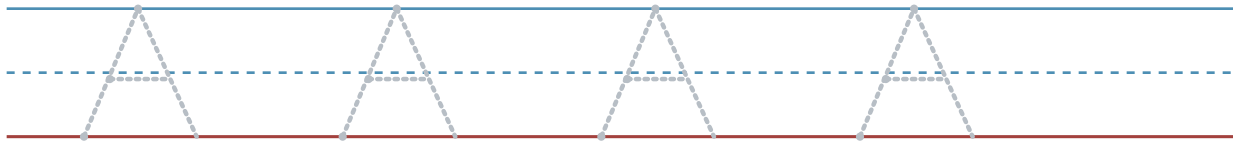
hat

jam

log

3. Trace the Zaner-Bloser letters.

Capital A touches the top blue line. Lowercase a sits between the dotted blue line and red line.



TRY IT

Write one capital A and one lowercase a without tracing.



Blend short a

Touch. Say. Slide. Read.

1. Put the sounds together.

a + p = ap

a + t = at

a + m = am

2. Add the first sound. Then read the word.

m + ap = map

s + at = sat

h + am = ham

3. Read every word.

Point under each word. Read it again smoothly.

mat

hat

ham

ram

tap

cap

jam

ran

4. Change one sound.

Chain 1

cat
cap
map

Chain 2

sat
sap
map

Chain 3

ham
hat
mat

GROWN-UP TIP

Praise careful sounding out. Do not ask the learner to guess.



Write short-a words

Zaner-Bloser manuscript

1. Make word families.

-at

cat mat hat sat

-ap

map tap cap

-am

ham ram jam

2. Trace the model. Then write it by yourself.

Zaner-Bloser model

Write it

cat

cat

map

map

sat

sat

hat

hat

3. Match the rhyming words.

Draw a line from each word on the left to its rhyme on the right.

cat ○

map ○

ham ○

○ jam

○ hat

○ cap



Read a short-a passage

Read smoothly

1. Learn the high-frequency words.

HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS

a

the

Learn by heart.

2. Read the warm-up phrases.

Sam had a map.

the cat sat

at the mat

3. Read the passage.

Sam Had a Map

Sam had a map.

A cat sat at the map.

Sam sat at the mat.

The cat ran.

The cat had the map!

Sam ran at the cat.

The cat sat.

Sam had the map.

4. Talk about the passage.

1. Who had the map?

2. What sat at the map?



Color and write

Short a

Color Millie. Then draw a small cat near the flowers.



1. Trace and write each word.

The model letters follow Zaner-Bloser manuscript formation.

cat

cat

map

map



Unit 1 mastery check

Short a

1. Read each whole word.

Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
cab	ham	cap
cat	ran	jam
map	sat	had
hat	mat	rat

2. Read the high-frequency words.

a	the	I
---	-----	---

3. Read the sentences.

1	The cat sat.
2	Sam had a map.
3	A cat ran.

4. Record what you noticed.

SKILL	NOT YET	WITH HELP	BY MYSELF
Says the short-a sound	☐	☐	☐
Blends without guessing	☐	☐	☐
Reads the passage smoothly	☐	☐	☐

Ready for more? Continue with Unit 1 of the Phonics & Reading Program at twosisterslegacy.com