


# LEM PHONICS

## *Parent Handbook*

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**a**



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**d**



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**c**



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**s**



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# WHAT IS LEM PHONICS?

LEM phonics gives learners the skills to confidently break a word into its parts and either decode them (for reading) or encode them (for spelling). Rather than learning thousands of unique words, they learn the component parts of these words and the rules that govern them.

## The Phonograms

Each sound in the English language can be represented by a single letter (b,t) or multiple letters (ee, igh). These written units of sounds are called *phonograms*. The 42 sounds of the English language are represented by 75 phonograms. Memorising the phonograms and their sounds is the first skill students learn. The sound may be represented by more than one phonogram. For example the sound 'ay' can be represented by ai, eigh, a, ey or ei, depending on the word in which it is used. A phonogram may represent more than one sound. For example, c can sound like 'k' in cat and like 's' in city.



Although 'd', 'o', 'g' sounds like *dog*, 'f', 'i', 's', 'h' does not sound like *fish* when sounded as individual letters. Children learn the combined letter graphemes (multiple phonograms) as well as learning the different sounds the phonogram can represent (for example, 'c' can sound like 'k' in cat or 's' in city)



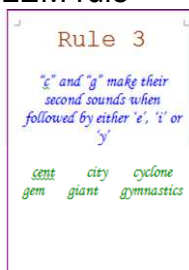
## The Rules

In order to *read* a word, students need to answer the question, 'Which sound is that particular phonogram saying?' Does the 'c' in city sound like 'c' or 's'?

- LEM rule - c says 's' when followed by e, i, or y

In order to spell a word, the question becomes, 'Which phonogram should I use to say that particular sound?' Should the 'ow' sound in down be spelled with ow (down) or ou (doun)?

- LEM rule - we use the phonogram ow to say the sound 'ow' before n alone.



For further information you can visit the LEM Phonics website on [www.lem.com.au](http://www.lem.com.au)

Underline multiple phonograms _____	<u>thick</u>
Number phonograms _____ (if not covered by a rule)	th <u>re</u> <sup>2</sup> <u>ad</u>
Silent letter _____	lamb <u>b</u>
Phonogram cannot say the sound _____	<u>of</u>
Exception to rule _____	*y <u>ou</u>
Syllable break _____	sil- <u>ver</u>

### Silent e

1. Lets a vowel say its second sound \_\_\_\_\_ made
2. Ends a word which cannot end with **v** or **u** — love true
3. Allows **c** and **g** to say their 2nd sounds — juice large
4. Provides a vowel where a syllable needs one — lit-tle
5. Does two jobs at once \_\_\_\_\_ nice
6. Helpless e \_\_\_\_\_ are



## Rule 1

Vowels usually say their second sounds at the end of a syllable

ta.ble      li.cence

## Rule 2

Silent 'e' allows vowels to say their second sounds

made      these      time  
tone      rule/cute  
style

## Rule 3

"c" and "g" make their second sounds when followed by either 'e', 'i' or 'y'

cent      city  
cyclone      gem      giant  
gymnastics

## Rule 4

Vowels usually make their first sounds when followed by a consonant in the same syllable

hat      bet.ter      slim  
cot      cut.ler.y  
sys.tem

## Rule 5

Vowels usually say their second sound:-

- a) at the end of a syllable  
ta.ble      le.gal      mo.tor  
su.per      mu.sic  
cy.clone
- b) when Silent 'e' allows them to  
made      these      time  
cone      rule      cute  
style

## Rule 6

'a' usually says its third sound when followed by two consonants

ask      father      cast  
path      palm

EXCEPTIONS: words ending in 'sh' and 'ch'

## Rule 7

'a' usually makes its fourth sound when followed by 'll' and 'lk' (and sometimes 'ld')

wall      small      chalk  
talk      scald

## Rule 8

'a' usually says its fifth sound when preceded by a 'w' sound (either a /w/ or a /qu/)

was      wander  
wallaby      quality  
qualify

## Rule 9

English words may not end in 'i', 'u', 'v' or 'j'

English words can't end in 'i' so y is used instead      e.g. sky

English words can't end in 'u' so a Silent 'e' is added to the end  
e.g. avenue

English words can't end in 'v' so a Silent 'e' is added to the end      e.g. receive

English words can't end in 'j' so either 'dge' or 'ge' is used      e.g. judge

## Rule 10

The Six Silent 'e' Functions

- Silent 'e' allows the vowel to say its second sound      e.g. made  
Silent 'e' completes words that end in 'u' and 'v'      e.g. blue  
Silent 'e' allows the 'c' and 'g' to say their second sounds      e.g. large  
Silent 'e' allows both the vowels and the 'c' or 'g' to say their second sounds      e.g. grace  
Silent 'e' supplies the vowel to the syllable  
No job /e/      e.g. are

## Rule 11

Using 'c', 'k' or 'ck'

Use 'c' whenever you can e.g. cancel

Use 'k' when the vowel says its second sound e.g. cake

Use 'k' when preceded by two vowels e.g. speak

Use 'k' when preceded by a consonant e.g. think

Use 'ck' when preceded by a single vowel saying its first sound e.g. stick

## Rule 12

Use 'c' when followed by the vowels 'a', 'o' and 'u'. Use 'k' when followed by the vowels 'e', 'i' and 'y'

cat cot cut  
key king Kyle

## Rule 13

Double 'l' at the end of a one-syllable word when preceded by a single vowel

hill bull stall

## Rule 14

Double 'f' and 'z' at the end of a one-syllable word containing one vowel

huff cuff buzz  
fuzz

## Rule 15

Use 'sh'

a) at the beginning of a word

b) at the end of a syllable

c) for the suffix 'ship'

sheet fish  
fashion friendship

## Rule 16

Use the third sound of 'a' when followed by two consonants

ask father cast path

EXCEPTIONS: words ending in 'sh' and 'ch'

Use the first sound of 'ar' when followed by one consonant or at the end of a word

sharp lar~~k~~ harm car  
star

## Rule 17

At the end of a word use 'dge' if the vowel says its first sound

bridge

Use 'ge' if the vowel says its second sound or if preceded by a consonant

cage change

## Rule 18

The first sound of 'ow' is usually used:-

- at the end of a word  
cow
- when followed by 'n'  
alone town
- when followed by an 'l'  
alone owl
- when followed by an 'er'  
power
- when followed by an 'el'  
towel

## Rule 19

Use 'ch' when preceded by a consonant church

Use 'ch' when preceded by two vowels speech

Use 'tch' when preceded by a single vowel catch

## Rule 20

Usually the 's' is doubled in a multi-syllable word if the stress is on the last syllable

con.fess

## Rule 21

When 's' makes its second sound at the end of a word, only one 's' is used

is

## Rule 22

The second sound of 'ar' is usually used when preceded by a 'w' sound

warm    quarter

## Rule 23

The One-One-One Double Rule- when the word has one syllable, with one vowel followed by one consonant, double the last consonant when adding an ending beginning with a vowel

run      running

## Rule 24

The Extension of the One-One-One Double Rule- In a multi-syllable word, if the stress is on the last syllable and there is one vowel followed by one consonant at the end of the word, double the last letter when adding an ending beginning with a vowel.

begin      beginning

## Rule 25

i' and 'o' may say their second sounds when followed by two consonants

find    bowl

## Rule 26

Add 'es' to words ending in 'x', 's', 'ss', 'sh', 'ch' and 'tch'

boxes    buses  
kisses    bushes  
churches    patches

## Rule 27

When adding an ending to words ending in 'o' to make them plural, simply add 's' for all words related to music and common words such as silo, avocado, rodeo, patio etc. Add 'es' to most other words ending in 'o' to make them plural

pianos    avocados  
potatoes

## Rule 28

When adding an ending to words ending in one 'f' to make them plural, change the 'f' to a 'v' and add 'es' for most words

wharf      wharves

For the following words just add an 's' to the end of the word

roof    roofs    chef    chefs

For words ending in two 'fs' just add an 's'

cliff    cliffs

## Rule 29

Use 'ti', 'ci' and the first sound of 'si' at the beginning of a second or subsequent syllable

na.tion    fa.cial  
vi.sion



# Single Phonograms

Letter	Sounds	Action	Rules	Example words
a	5 ah, aye, are, or, ohh	Hold up five fingers. Put down one finger at a time as you say each sound.	A says its 2 <sup>nd</sup> sound at the end of a syllable.  Silent e makes a say its 2 <sup>nd</sup> sound.  A says its 3 <sup>rd</sup> sound when followed by two consonants.  a says its 4 <sup>th</sup> sound when followed by ll or lk.  A often says its 5 <sup>th</sup> sound after w.	Fat baby in the bath all washed.
b	1 buh	Pretend to blow up a balloon.	b can be silent at the end of a word. E.g. climb, lamb, crumb... underline the b with two lines.	B of balloon
c	2 k, sss	Cup your nose with your hand while saying 'k' then hold your hands above your head like a circus tent while saying 'sss'.	C says its 2 <sup>nd</sup> sound when followed by e, I or y.	Clowns in the circus.
d	1 duh	Pretend to dig like a dog	d is rarely doubled after a single vowel in a one syllable word. Exceptions: odd, add.	D of dog
e	2 eh, eee	Run hand elegantly down your neck while saying 'eh' then hold arm out like an emu neck / head when saying 'eee'	E says its second sound at the end of a syllable.  Silent e makes e say its 2 <sup>nd</sup> sound. (For example: these).  Silent e (at the end of a word) has 6 functions.	Elegant emu
f	1 fff	Swim hand through the air in front of your body.	one syllable, one vowel, double the f	f of fish
g	2 guh, juh	Hold two hands up against your face like you are giggling then hold hand up high like a giraffe neck / head.	G often says its 2 <sup>nd</sup> sound when followed by e, I or y. Exceptions: give, gift, get, girl.,,	Giggling giraffe
h	1 hhh (not 'huh')	Twirl index finger in the air above your head.		H of helicopter
i	2 ih, eye	Make igloo arch with your hands when saying 'ih' then rub arms as though you are cold when saying 'eye'	English words cannot end in i.  I says its second sound when followed by 2 consonants.  I sometimes says its 2 <sup>nd</sup> sound at the end of a syllable.	Igloo ice

			Silent e makes I say its 2 <sup>nd</sup> sound. I says its 2 <sup>nd</sup> sound when it stands alone as a word.	
j	1 juh	Hold index, middle and ring fingers together, with thumb and little finger out. Zoom your hand from your belly button to above your head.	English words cannot end in j. j is only used at the beginning of a syllable.	J of jet
k	1 K	Hold both hands on either side of the top of your head like a crown.	K is used instead of c to make a k sound when followed by e I or y	K of king
l	1 lll	Pretend to lick a lollipop.	One syllable, one vowel, double the l. Exception: nil	L of lollipop
m	1 mmm	Use hands to make a monkey scratching action.		M of monkey
n	1 nnn	Cup hands to make a nest in front of you.		N of nest
o	4 ohh, owe, ew, uh	Circle your mouth with index finger, then middle finger, ring finger and little finger. (For example: 'ohh' = index finger circle, 'owe' index and middle finger circle...)	O says its 2 <sup>nd</sup> sound when followed by 2 consonants. O says its 2 <sup>nd</sup> sound at the end of a word. Silent e makes o say its second sound. Rule breakers: women and woman... underline the o in red because it isn't making any of its usual sounds.	I'm on the phone to mother.
p	1 P	Make a fist then move arm across your body like a swashbuckling pirate.		P of pirate
q	2 qw, k	Hold thumb and two fingers together near your head. Move it quickly down towards your arm then slap arm like you are swatting a mosquito.	U always follows q. U is not treated as a vowel when written next to q.	Quick mosquito Q and u stick together like glue
r	1 rrr	Move arms like you are a robot.	Rascal r often modifies the sound of a and o.	R of robot
s	2 sss, zzz	Hold hand in a fist and rock up and down (sign language 'yes') then hold finger tips on chin and move hand forward (sign language please)	One syllable, one vowel, double the s. (but not if the s is saying its 2 <sup>nd</sup> sound) s never follows x.	Yes please!



t	1 t	Move hands in a breast stroke style action	Sometimes t is silent (whistle, rustle, Christmas). Underline it with two lines.	T of turtle
u	3 uh, ew / you, ooh	Punch out, pull fist back into your body, extend arm and point finger then pretend to gently punch yourself in the ribs.	English words cannot end in u. (Place silent e on the end).  Silent e makes u say its 2nd sound ('ew' or 'you').  u usually says its 2nd sound ('ew') before j, l, r and s.	Under Sue's cute cushion.
v	1 v v v	Hold hands apart as though they are on a steering wheel then pretend to drive a van.	English words don't end in v (Place silent e on the end).	V of van
w	1 Wh	Put hand on your wrist where a watch would go.		W of watch
x	2 Ks, zzz	Run your finger diagonally from one side of your body to the other then repeat on the other side.	Never double the letter x.	A fox playing the xylophone.
y	4 ih, eye, yuh... also says eee	Hold finger and thumb to form a y shape. Run other index finger down a different part of the y as you say each sound.	Use y to say eee at the end of a word with two or more syllables.  Use y instead of i at the end of a word.	That tiny fly is yellow and happy.
z	1 zzz	Pretend to zip down your shirt.	One syllable, one vowel, double the z. (Exception: quiz).  z not s is used to say zzz at the beginning of a base word.	Zip to the zoo.

## Multiple Phonograms

Letters	Sounds	Action	Rules	Example words
<u>er</u>	1 er	Hold index finger above top lip like a moustache.	Usually used to say 'er' at the end of a multi-syllable word.	er of father
<u>ir</u>	1 er	Flap arms like a bird.		ir of bird
<u>ur</u>	1 er	Pretend to throw a boomerang.		ur of return
<u>ear</u>	1 er	Yawn and rub eyes	Never used to say 'er' at the end of a word.	Ear of early
<u>wor</u>	1 er	Wiggle index finger like a worm.	or only says 'er' when following w.	Wor of worm
<u>th</u>	2 thh,	Hold up your thumb then point your index finger.		Thanks mother
<u>sh</u>	1 shhh	Place one hand on your head like a shark fin	Only used at the beginning of a word or the end of a syllable.	Sh of shark.
<u>ee</u>	1 eee	Hold both hands in the air above your head and wave them like tree branches in the breeze.		ee of tree double e always says eee.
<u>ay</u>	1 ay	Happy dance.	Use at the end of a word or syllable.	(teacher's name) likes to play on pay day.
<u>ai</u>	1 ai	Hold fingers near your face and make rain motion.	Do not use at the end of a word.	Ai of rain
<u>ow</u>	2 ow, owe	Point down when saying 'ow' and move hands slowly like a train while saying 'owe'	used before n alone, before l, el or er and at the end of a word.	How slow
<u>ou</u>	4 ow, owe, ew, uh	Pretend to throw flowers to an adoring crowd (index finger, then middle finger, ring then little finger)	Don't use at the end of a word. Used to say 'ow' before d and t.	A thousand bouquets for the youth of the country
<u>oy</u>	1 oy	Flick thumb back over your sholder (as if you are saying 'oi... get back there').	Use at the end of a word.	Use oy at the end of a word.
<u>oi</u>	1 oi	Pretend to hold a coin and bite on it. (like a pirate)	Don't use at the end of the word.	oi of coin

<u>ch</u>	3 ch,k,sh	Move one hand, then the other then both together in a train action.		A chicken from the school chef
<u>aw</u>	1 aw	Pretend to saw your forearm with your other hand.		aw of saw, anywhere aw
<u>au</u>	2 aw, ohh	Pretend to pour sauce on a sausage then bite it.	Don't use at the end of a word.	saucy sausage
<u>ng</u>	1 ng	Move your open palm from your chest to above your head in a diagonal motion like you are singing.	Never use before k.	ng of sing
<u>oo</u>	2 ew, ooh	Hold your hands in a circle shape just above your head and shake it side to side	Never use before ck.	The moon shook.
<u>ew</u>	1 ew	Pretend to put a fork to your mouth then chew.		chew your stew
<u>ui</u>	2 ew, you	Pretend to bite a piece of fruit then look at it with a disgusted face.	Don't use at the end of a word	what a fruity nuisance!
<u>ea</u>	3 eee, eh, ay	Pretend to eat, then butter bread, then cut steak with a knife and fork.		eat your bread with steak
<u>ar</u>	2 ar, or	Feel forehead with back of hand like you are checking your temperature then feel your cheeks with both hands.	ar often says 'or' after w or qu.	are you warm?
<u>or</u>	1 or	Cover your ears as though you are frightened of a storm.		Ordinary or of storm
<u>ck</u>	1 k	Move one hand as though it is the second hand on a clock.	Used after a single, short vowel.	Two letter k of clock. Tick tock tick tock.
<u>oa</u>	1 owe	make wave actions across the front of your body as though it is a boat riding on the waves.		Oa of boat
<u>wh</u>	1 wh	Hold thumbs and index fingers in a w shape on top of your head. Lift and separate the formation as you say 'wh'	only used at the beginning of a base word. When o follows wh, the w is silent.	White whale
<u>igh</u>	1 eye	Pretend to turn on the light switch	used only at the end of a word or before t.	Turn on the light at night
<u>ed</u>	3 ed, d, t	Hold both hands together as a ball when saying 'ed', then hold one hand flat and move it from side to side like a frying pan while saying 'd', then punch fist into other palm while saying 't'.		roasted, fried, or mashed  past tense verbs use ed, d, t

<u>ey</u>	2 eee, ay	Hold hands up at the side of your head as though they are donkey ears and hold one down one at a time.		Donkeys are grey
<u>wr</u>	1 rrr	Pretend to write in the air in front of you.	used only at the beginning of a base word.	wr of write
<u>kn</u>	1 nnn	Pretend to hold up a sword like a knight	used only at the beginning of a base word	kn of knight

## Successive Phonograms

Letters	Sounds	Action	Rules	Example words
eigh	1 'ay'	shake your head and look towards the ceiling as though you are a horse neighing.		4 letter 'ay' of neigh
tch	1 'ch'	hold one hand out flat. Hold the other hand as though you are holding a match and strike it from your palm towards your finger tips.	often used after a single, short vowel... exceptions: which, rich, such, sandwich, much, touch	3 letter 'ch' of match
oe	1 'owe'	point to your toes and wiggle them	only used at the end of a word	oe of toe
ough	6 'owe' 'ew' 'uff' 'off' 'ore' 'ow'	stamp one foot, then the other, touch one knee then the other, touch one elbow then the other		though we went through rough troughs we fought on through the drought
dge	1 'j'	reach hands across in front of your face like an arch	use after a single, short vowel	3 letter dge of bridge
ph	1 'ffff'	Pretend your arm is an elephant's trunk and move it around		2 letter 'fff' of elephant
ti	1 'sh'	look proud and pretend to wave a flag	ti is the most frequently used out of ti, ci and si	'shhh' of nation
ci	'sh'	hold your hands together near your chest, tilt your head and flutter your eye lashes.		'shhh' of special
si	2 'sh' 'jzzz'	hold your hand over your heart while saying 'sh' then hold your hands over your eyes like binoculars while saying 'jzzz'		I have a passionate vision
ie	2 'eee' 'eye'	Pretend to cut a pie with your hand then pretend to pass it to someone in front of you (all with one hand)		Have a piece of pie

ei	2 'eee' 'ay'	Pretend to grab reins then whip them.		seize the reigns!
augh	2 'or' 'arf'	look towards your shoulder while saying 'or' then toss your head back as though you are laughing when saying 'arf'		The daughter laughed
gn	1 'nnn'	hold up two fingers like a peace sign.	used at the beginning or the end of a base word	2 letter 'nn' of sign
gu	1 'guh' 'gwh'	shake your head while looking disappointed then hold both hands by your side with hands pointing out (like a penguin)	gu says its 2 <sup>nd</sup> sound after n	guilty penguin
gh	1 'guh'	hold nose and look disgusted as you pretend to hold a gherkin away from your face	used only at the beginning of a base word	2 letter gh of gherkin
sc	1 'sss'	move index and middle fingers as though they are scissors	used only before e, I or y	two letter 'sss' of scissors
eu	1 'you'	make the jet symbol for 'j' then zoom it around your head (as though the jet is flying to Europe)		eu of Europe