

Really Good Stuff® Instructional Guide

Sorting Sticks: Short and Long Vowels

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- 72 color-coded *Sorting Sticks*
- This Really Good Stuff® Instructional Guide

Congratulations on your purchase of **Sorting Sticks: Short and Long Vowels**, a fun exercise for practicing this important phonemic awareness skill.

Meeting the Standards

Really Good Stuff® **Sorting Sticks: Short and Long Vowels** aligns with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts below. For alignment with other state standards, please refer to our website's Standards Match.

Phonological Awareness

RF.1.2.a Distinguish long from short vowel sounds in spoken single-syllable words.

The color-coded **Sorting Sticks** represent each of the five short vowels in CVC words (green), CVCC words (red), CCVC / CCVCC (purple), plus the five long vowels (gold). The pictures appear on each end of the stick so they remain visible throughout the sort for support. Students sort the sticks into containers such as *Sorting City*™ (#308166), dry erase boxes that look like city buildings.

Before sorting, expose students to short and long vowels with activities such as word building and making vowel books with glued pictures. This will help ready students to distinguish vowel sounds in pictures using **Sorting Sticks**.

Managing the Sorting Sticks

- Visit our website www.reallygoodstuff.com to download Really Good Stuff® Instructional Guides.
- In advance of your demonstration, choose the sorts and store the needed sticks in baggies. Use baggies to store the activity at centers as well. See the list on right for included *Sorting Sticks*.

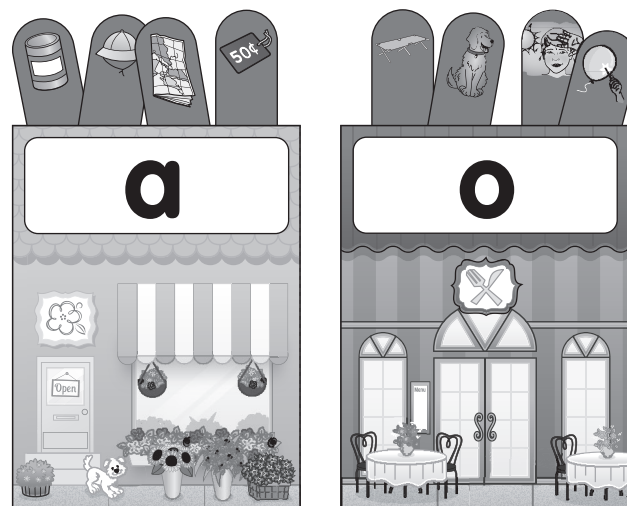
English Language Learners

Talk about different pronunciations based on regional accents or students' native languages. This may come up in decisions students make when sorting by short vowel sounds. The way students from many different language backgrounds pronounce short *a* might resemble short *o* to the listener, which can easily become confusing when learning English short vowel sounds.

Modeling Sorting with Sorting Sticks

At first have students compare short vowel sounds that are easy to distinguish such as short *a* vs. short *o* or short *i* vs. short *u*. Label two boxes with two vowels, such as *a* and *o*. Ask students to name all the pictures on the *Sorting Sticks* with you. Then pick up an *a* stick, such as *can*, name the picture again, and say, "I have *can*. *Can* makes the /a/ sound. *Can* goes in the *a* category." Next, choose a stick with an *o* picture, such as *dog*, and model sorting the *dog* stick into the *o* box. Pick up another stick and name the picture, such as *cot*. Ask

students, "Does *cot* have a middle sound like *can* or like *dog*?" When students produce the correct response, sort the *cot* stick into the *o* box. Continue sorting the pictures into the two boxes until all the sticks are sorted. Review the sort together.



Have students mix up the sticks and sort individually or in pairs or small groups. They divide the sticks, then take turns sorting into the boxes. Increase the number of sorting categories as students progress.

Pictures in This Sorting Sticks Set

	CVC	CVCC	CCVC / CCVCC	Long Vowels
a	can	cast	crab	rain
	hat	hand	flag	snake
	map	lamp	stamp	hay
	tag	mask		tail
e	bed	bell	sled	keys
	pen	desk	chest	leaf
	web	nest	dress	bee
			shell	
i	hit	tent	crib	fly
	pig	fish	ship	bike
	win	gift	skid	light
	zip	hill	brick	ice
o	cot	doll	chop	toe
	dog	honk	frog	bone
	hot	pond	stop	boat
	pop	soft	clock	
u	bug	dunk	plug	glue
	sun	hush	slug	moon
	tub	jump	brush	juice
			trunk	

All instructional guides can be found online.