

# New sound: air

87

Lesson 87 of 92 (ages 3-6) / 81 of 86 (age 7+) · Vowel Teams &amp; Tricky Words · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

**GOAL**

**Your child can say /air/ when they see "air", and hear it in words like hair.**

**WHY IT MATTERS**

"air" is 3 letters that make ONE sound. Seeing them as one unit stops your child reading the letters separately, and unlocks words like hair, fair, pair.

**YOU'LL NEED**

- The practice sheet for this lesson (worksheet.pdf) and a pencil or crayon.
- The lesson page on a phone or tablet, for the sounds and games.

## LESSON FLOW about 10 minutes

1 min

**Warm up**

Quick flash of the last sounds: write "ear", "aw", "oi" on paper, point, and your child says each sound.

SAY

*"What sound is this? And this one?"*

2 min

**Listen**

Play /air/ on the lesson page three times. Your child watches your mouth and copies.

SAY

*"This is /air/. Watch my mouth: 'eh' then add 'r'."*

2 min

**Show how**

Show the letters "air" and the action: Toss hair and say air-air-air. Then tap the words on the lesson page.

SAY

*"When I see air, I say /air/. hair: /air/ hair!"*

*"Two letters, one sound. They're best friends: they always stick together."*

2 min

**Do it together**

Sound hunt: find 3 things at home with /air/. Then do the trace-and-write part of the practice sheet. Read together: hair, fair, pair, chair, stair, air.

2 min

**Play**

Play the games on the lesson page: hear /air/ and tap its letters, then find where the sound is in a word.

1 min

**Wrap up**

Ask your child to teach the sound and action to someone else in the family.

SAY

*"Can you show Grandma our new sound?"*

## USE WITH THIS LESSON

- **This lesson online (listening + games)**  
[phonicademy.com/plan/session/sound-air](https://phonicademy.com/plan/session/sound-air)
- **Printable: Diphthongs Worksheet — R-Patterns (Free PDF)**  
[phonicademy.com/printables/diphthongs-worksheet-r-patterns](https://phonicademy.com/printables/diphthongs-worksheet-r-patterns)
- **Read: Vowel Teams List (Free PDF): ai, ay, ea, ee, oa, oo**  
[phonicademy.com/blog/vowel-teams-list](https://phonicademy.com/blog/vowel-teams-list)
- **The “air” sound — full page**  
[phonicademy.com/phonemes/air](https://phonicademy.com/phonemes/air)
- **Printable: Vowel Sounds Chart (Free PDF)**  
[phonicademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-vowel-sounds-chart](https://phonicademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-vowel-sounds-chart)
- **Read: 20 Vowel Sounds Chart (Free PDF) with Examples**  
[phonicademy.com/blog/vowel-sounds-chart](https://phonicademy.com/blog/vowel-sounds-chart)

## HEAR IT, FIND IT

Say the sound (not the letter name). Your child points to the letters. Tick first-try answers.

| # | SAY / SHOW | CHOICES      | ANSWER |                          |
|---|------------|--------------|--------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Say /air/  | air, ear, aw | air    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Say /ear/  | ear, air, aw | ear    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Say /aw/   | aw, o, air   | aw     | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

- |                                              |                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Says the sound too quickly to hear.</b>   | -> /air/ can be stretched: hold it like a long note, airairairair, then let go. |
| <b>Reads the letters one by one (a-i-r).</b> | -> Put one finger under both letters at once: "these two make one sound".       |
| <b>Mixes up /air/ and /ear/.</b>             | -> Easy to mix up — "hear" and "hair" only differ in this one sound.            |

### TOO HARD? MAKE IT EASIER

Only do the listening parts today: hear it, say it, find it in pictures. Save the writing for tomorrow.

### TOO EASY? MAKE IT HARDER

Read these words and then write two of them from memory: hair, fair, pair, chair, stair, air.

## HOW DID IT GO?

### MY CHILD CAN...

- ☐ Says /air/ when shown "air".
- ☐ Hears /air/ in a word you say (hair).
- ☐ Writes "air" as one sound unit.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Colour in the stars:



Notes: \_\_\_\_\_