

New sound: o

21

Lesson 21 of 92 (ages 3-6) / 15 of 86 (age 7+) · Letter Sounds · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

GOAL

Your child can say /o/ when they see "o", and hear it in words like octopus.

WHY IT MATTERS

Short vowels are in the middle of almost every word. /o/ is the sound in hot, pot, top: without it, nothing blends.

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 "g", "d", "m" on paper, point, and your child says each sound.

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

2 min

Listen

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

SAY | *"This is /o/. Watch my mouth: open wide and drop your jaw, lips relaxed (not rounded) — a short 'ah'."*

2 min

Show how

Show the letter "o" and the action: Wave your arms like an octopus and say o-o-o. Then tap the words on the lesson page.

SAY | *"When I see o, I say /o/. octopus: /o/ octopus!"*

2 min

Do it together

Sound hunt: find 3 things at home with /o/. Then do the trace-and-write part of the practice sheet. Read together: pot, top, mop, dot, not, pop.

2 min

Play

Play the games on the lesson page: hear /o/ and tap its letters.

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)**
phonicsacademy.com/plan/session/sound-o
- **Printable: CVC Worksheet — Short O (Free PDF)**
phonicsacademy.com/printables/cvc-worksheet-o
- **Read: Phonemes List (Free PDF): 44 English Phonemes with Examples**
phonicsacademy.com/blog/43-english-phonemes-list
- **The "o" sound — full page**
phonicsacademy.com/phonemes/o
- **Printable: 44 Letter Sound Flashcards (PDF)**
phonicsacademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-flashcards-43
- **Read: Letter Sounds vs Letter Names: Which Should You Teach First?**
phonicsacademy.com/blog/letter-sounds-vs-letter-names

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 /o/	o, g, d	o	☐
2	Say /g/	g, o, d	g	☐
3	Say /d/	d, t, o	d	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

Says the letter NAME ("oh") instead of the sound. -> Names come later. For reading we only use the sound: /o/ as in octopus.

Mixes up /o/ and /oa/. -> Different mouth shapes — "o" is a big open "ah" with no lip rounding; "oa" rounds the lips and glides to "oo".

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: pot, top, mop, dot, not, pop.

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

- ☐ Says /o/ when shown "o".
- ☐ Hears /o/ in a word you say (octopus).
- ☐ Writes "o" starting in the right place.

Date: _____

Colour in the stars:



Notes: _____