

New sound: z

47

Lesson 47 of 92 (ages 3-6) / 41 of 86 (age 7+) · Letter Sounds · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

GOAL

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

WHY IT MATTERS

Every letter sound is a building block. Once your child knows /z/, they can use it in every word it appears in: zip, zoo, zap.

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 "y", "x", "w" on paper, point, and your child says each sound.

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

2 min

Listen

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

SAY | "This is /z/. Watch my mouth: like 's' but voice it."

2 min

Show how

Show the letter "z" and the action: Pretend to zip up a jacket and say zzzzz. Then tap the words on the lesson page.

SAY | "When I see z, I say /z/. zip: /z/ zip!"

2 min

Do it together

Sound hunt: find 3 things at home with /z/. Then do the trace-and-write part of the practice sheet. Read together: zip, zap, zig, zag, buzz, fizz.

2 min

Play

Play the games on the lesson page: hear /z/ 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-z
- **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
- **The "z" sound — full page**
phonicsacademy.com/phonemes/z
- **Read: Phonemes List (Free PDF): 44 English Phonemes with Examples**
phonicsacademy.com/blog/43-english-phonemes-list
- **Game: Letter Trace**
phonicsacademy.com/play/letter-trace

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 /z/	z, s, y	z	☐
2	Say /y/	y, z, x	y	☐
3	Say /x/	x, z, y	x	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

Says the sound too quickly to hear. -> /z/ can be stretched: hold it like a long note, zzzz, then let go.

Mixes up /z/ and /s/. -> Same hissing mouth shape — /z/ just adds a buzz from your voice box.

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: zip, zap, zig, zag, buzz, fizz.

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

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

Date: _____

Colour in the stars:



Notes: _____