

ESL Phonics Word List

h

Hat
Hen
Hot
Hand
Horse
House

short i

Ink
Insect
Sit
Six
In
Win

short U

Sun
Run
Bus
Cup
Umbrella
Up

x

Box
Fox
Six
Mix
Taxi

v

Van
Violin
Vet
Video
Vegetable
Volcano

w

Water
Window
Wall
White
Whale
Watch

ESL Phonics Word List

Digraphs

Sh

Ship
Shop
Sheep
Shirt
Shoe
Shower
Shark
Shell
Short
Fish
Brush

Th (unvoiced)

Thumb
Think
Thin
Thirty
Thursday
Bath
Three
Mouth
Teeth

Th (voiced)

This
That
Feather
Mother
Brother
They

Ng

Sing
Song
King
Ring
Wing
Long
Strong

ESL Phonics Word List

Vowel Teams

long oo/ue

Moon
Food
Room
Pool
Zoo
Blue
Glue
True

short oo

Book
Look
Good
Foot
Cook
Wool

oi/oy

Coin
Boil
Point
Oil
Join
Boy
Toy
Enjoy

ou/ow

House
Mouse
Cloud
Round
Cow
Brown
Town

au/aw

Autumn
August
Sauce
Pause
Paw
Draw
Claw

ESL Phonics Word List

Alternative spellings for long vowel sounds

Long A

ai

Rain
Train
Paint
Chain
Snail
Tail

ay

Day
Play
Today
Stay

a_e

Cake
Game
Name
Snake

ESL Phonics Word List

Alternative spellings for long vowel sounds

Long E

ee

ea

e_e

Tree
Green
Feet
Cheese
Sweet
Sleep

Leaf
Meat
Beans
Tea
Seat
Beach

These
Theme
Complete
Scene

ie

y

Field
Piece
Chief
Thief

Baby
Family
Candy
Body
City
Happy

ESL Phonics Word List

Alternative spellings for long vowel sounds

Long i

ie

i_e

y

Tie

Pie

Die

Bike

Time

Five

Smile

Sky

Fly

Cry

Dry

igh

Light

Night

High

Right

ESL Phonics Word List

Alternative spellings for long vowel sounds

Long O

oa

Boat
Goat
Road
Coat

ow

Snow
Grow
Window
Yellow

o_e

Home
Rose
Phone
Stone

ESL Phonics Word List

Alternative spellings for long vowel sounds

Long U

ue

Rescue
Statue
Value

eu

Europe

u_e

Cube
Use
Cute
Tube

ew

New
Few

ESL Phonics Word List

R-controlled vowels

ar

Car
Star
Farm
Park
Dark
Hard
Jar
Part
Start

or

Short
Sport
Corn
Horse
North
Fork
Storm

er/ir/ur

Her
Verb
Sister
Tiger
Teacher
Girl
Bird
Shirt
Circus
Skirt
Purple
Nurse
Turtle
Hurt

Ready to teach Sounds?

These word lists include high-frequency vocabulary chosen from Cambridge-aligned word banks and real ESL classroom use. They're designed to help teachers quickly find student-friendly examples for each phonics pattern.

Tired of searching for high-quality phonics resources that actually work in the ESL classroom, we decided to create the **Phonics for ESL Toolkit**: everything we use ourselves to teach phonics, organised into three levels and designed specifically for English learners.

Inside you'll find:

- Step-by-step teacher guide
- Photocopyable, ready-to-use worksheets
- Games and flashcards to make practice fun
- Matching phonics videos

No more piecing together activities from different sources, it's all in one place, ready to use!

The diagram illustrates the Phonics for ESL Toolkit. On the left, a computer screen displays the toolkit's website with the URL eslacademyresources.com/phonics-for-esl. An arrow points from this screen to the right, where a smartphone displays the toolkit's landing page. The page features the title 'PHONICS FOR ESL TOOLKIT' in large, bold, teal letters, with a subtitle 'Everything you need to teach Phonics to English learners.' Below this, a bulleted list includes: '✓ Step-by-step guide', '✓ Photocopyable worksheets', '✓ Games for the classroom', and '✓ Flashcards'. At the bottom, it says 'Created by Fenella & Michelle French from ESL Academy based on the Science of Reading' with the ESL Academy logo. On the left, a yellow sticky note encourages users to 'Want updates and freebies? Subscribe to our Phonics mailing list' with a 'JOIN NOW!' button and a hand cursor icon.