

The Story Behind Teaching Copycat Y

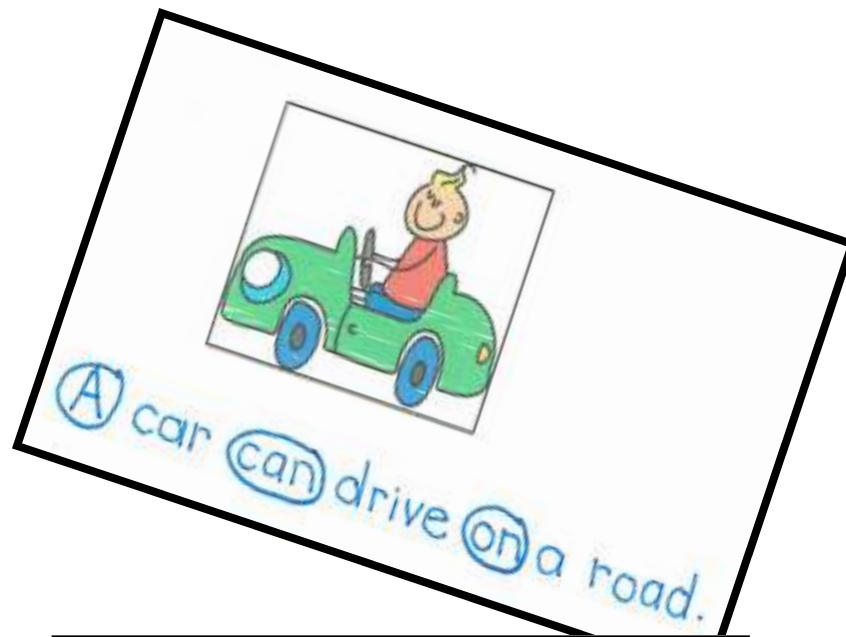
After teaching my students to scan the end of a word for silent "e" I also taught them to scan the end of a word for "y". The letter "y" copycats long vowel sounds at the end of a word.

Sounds of y	Placement of y
y (yes)	*beginning
i (sky)	*end of one beat/syllable words
ee (happy)	*end of two beat/syllable words
ay (play)	*word key
ey (hockey)	*word key

Introduction Lesson for Copycat "y"

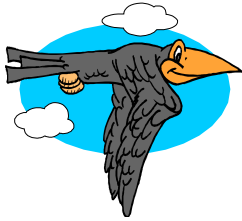
For my copycat "y" lesson introduction I showed the children a secret code which utilized final letters!

1. Circle the last letter of each word in the sentence.
2. Ignore words in the sentence that are circled, because they are there to trick you!
3. Next, write down the circled letters in order.
4. Finally, blend the letters together to decode the message!



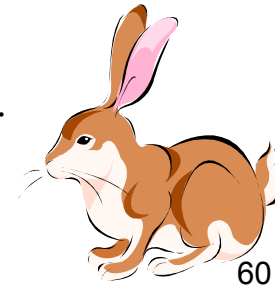
Deciphered Code:
read

Teaching Tip: Determining the number of syllables in a word.



Count how many syllables (beats) are in a word by the number of times your chin drops.

- In a one syllable word, place your hand under your chin and say the word **fly**. How many times did your chin drop? Once. In a one syllable word, your chin will only drop once.
- **Y** at the **end of one syllable words** copycats the long vowel **i** sound.
- In a two syllable word, place your hand under your chin and say the word **bunny**. How many times did your chin drop? Twice. In a two syllable word, your chin will drop twice.
- **Y** at the **end of two syllable words** copycats the long vowel **e** sound.

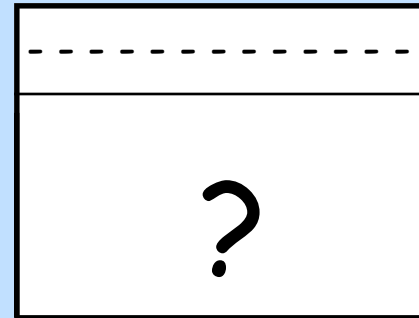
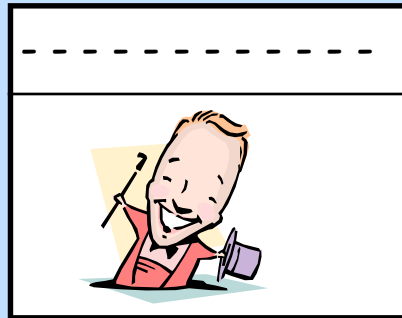


In 2009, I revised the school edition of Smart Start in Language Arts. At that time, I created this simple daily exercise to provide students with practice applying their decoding strategies to "y" at the end of one and two syllable words. (I also included the same exercise in the Smart Start Home Education edition).

3. Instructions: Circle the sound y makes in each word.
Copy the word beside its matching picture.

1. why = i ee

2. funny = i



4. Instructions: Mark

R for regular (short vowel)

B for bumper (long vowel with silent e)

1. stiff _____	4. chins _____	7. ropes _____	10. stump _____
2. blame _____	5. poles _____	8. choke _____	11. tames _____
3. sticks _____	6. flame _____	9. gland _____	12. spine _____

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