

How Lionel Lion Learned to Read

With the Secret Code of the English language



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With the Secret Code of the English language

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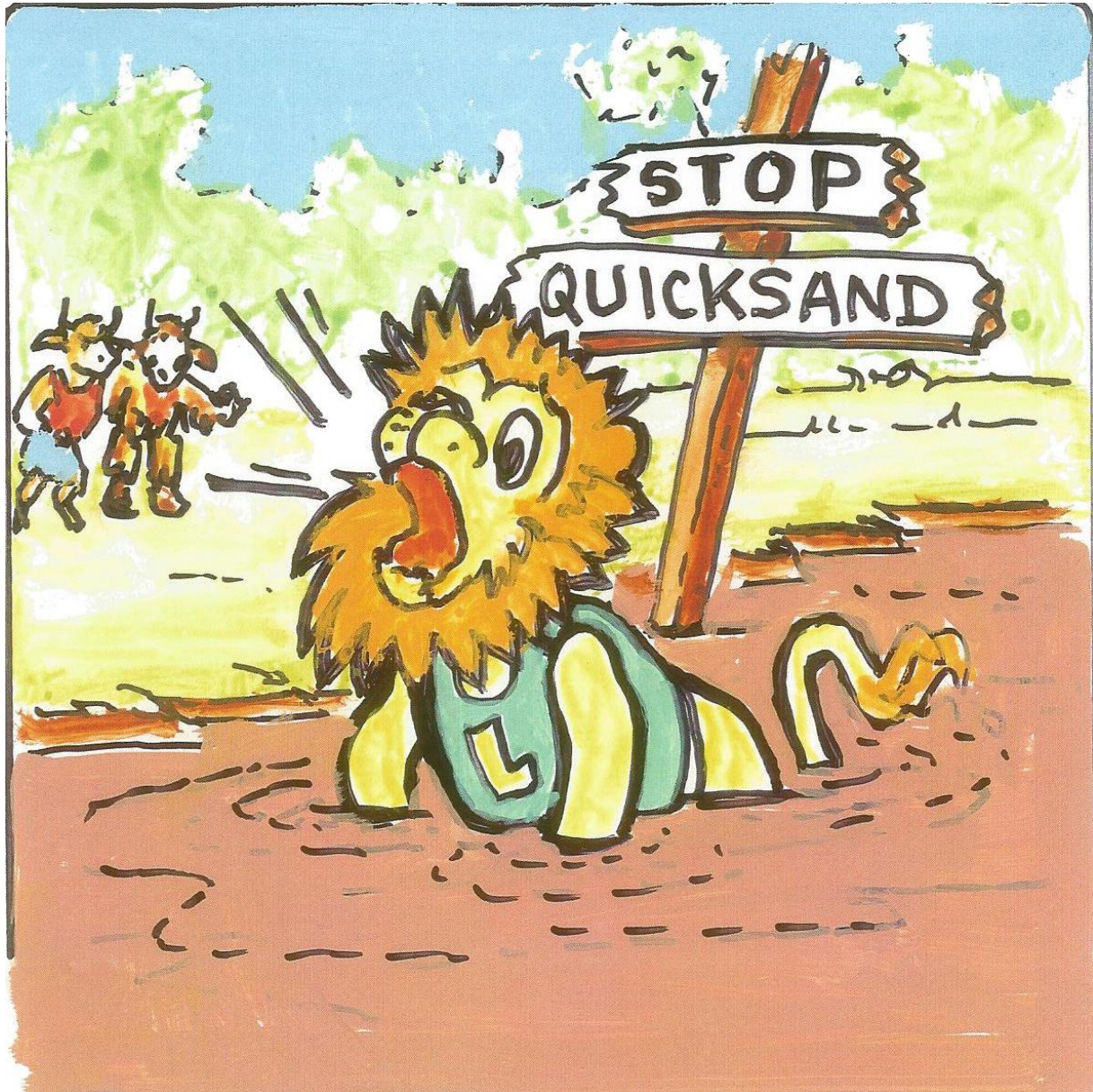
Chapter 1 Sounds

Lionel Lion stopped his happy singing, *luh - luh - luh*, when he saw a sign at the edge of a stream of water. "I guess that's the name of the stream," he said. "I wonder what it says?"



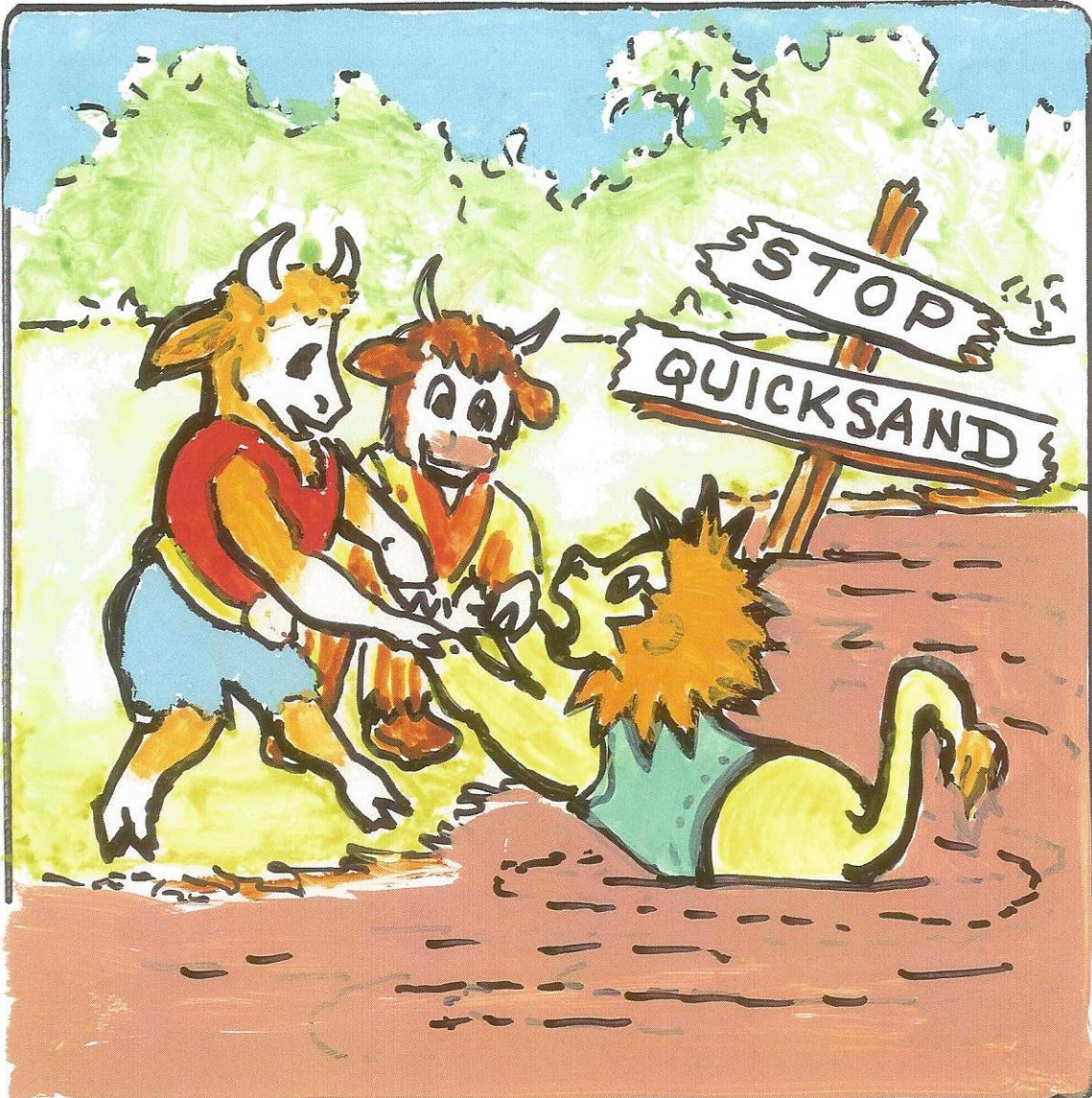
He stepped into the stream and bent forward to get a drink of water. He tried to walk back out of the water but his paws were stuck on the bottom.

Lionel Lion started sinking in the sand on the bottom of the stream. He tried to raise back up but his paws were stuck, He couldn't get up. He yelled, "HELP! HELP!!"



Rex Ox and Yukon Yak heard Lionel Lion yelling and ran over to see what was wrong. They saw him sinking in the quicksand.

Between them they pulled Lionel Lion to safety.



"Lionel, you are a lucky lion that we came along," said Yukon Yak, "Why did you go in the quicksand?"

"I didn't know it was quicksand!" Lionel Lion replied.

"Didn't you read the sign that said STOP QUICKSAND?"

"I saw the sign but I didn't know what it said. I couldn't read it."

"Don't you know how to read?" asked Rex Ox.

"No, do you?"

"Of course." said Yukon Yak and Rex Ox at the same time.

Lionel Lion said, "It's too hard to learn to read. I just like to sing, *luh, luh, luh.*"

"It's not hard to learn to read," exclaimed Yukon Yak, "it's really fun!"

"No, it's not fun. I tried to learn that whole list of words and it was too hard. I couldn't remember them. It wasn't fun."

"That's not how you learn to read!" exclaimed Rex Ox.

"Well, how did you learn to read?" asked a surprised Lionel Lion.

"Carissa taught us the code," they answered.

Lionel Lion was shocked. "What code? I didn't know there was a code. No one ever showed me a code or even told me there was a code. They just gave me a list of words and said I had to memorize them." He glanced in both directions to see if anyone was listening and whispered, "Is it a secret code?"

Rex Ox and Yukon Yak looked at each other then Rex Ox laughed and said, "Well, I guess if you don't even know that there is a code, then it is a secret. So, if you don't know the code or that there even is a code, it is a Secret Code."

Yukon Yak added, "And you, Lionel Lion, are one of the pieces of the code."

Now, Lionel Lion was really curious. He asked, "Would Carissa teach me the Secret Code so I could learn how to read?"

"Let's go over and find out," they answered.

As the three friends started walking over to Carissa's, Lionel Lion asked how Rex Ox and Yukon Yak had learned to read. "It was easy," Yukon Yak told him. "We started by learning our sounds. You know how you are always going around singing *luh - luh - luh*? Well that is your sound. That is the beginning sound of your name Lionel Lion *luh - luh - luh*. My sound is *yuh - yuh - yuh* for Yukon Yak."

Lionel Lion kept practicing his sound and singing *luh - luh - luh*. He thought it was a happy sound and it was his lucky sound because today he was going to start learning to read and then he would know what warning signs said.

There was a big sign across the top of the gate at Carissa's. "What does that sign say?" Lionel Lion wanted to know.



"It says, THE READING RANCH and underneath it says Carissa and her Critters."

Grandfather Owl flew in and landed on top of the sign and hooted, "Whooo Whooo?"

Yukon Yak said, "Good morning, Grandfather. Lionel Lion wants to learn to read."

"Whooo, Whooo. He Whooo learns the Secret Code can read anything in English. Whooo wants to learn the Secret Code?" asked Grandfather Owl.



"I do, I do!" shouted Lionel Lion.

"Whooo, Whooo. He Whooo learns the Secret Code 26-44-70, can read anything in English. The Secret Code 26-44-70," repeated Grandfather Owl as he flew away.

Carissa was very happy to see Lionel Lion and find out that he



wanted to learn to read. She asked Beta Butterfly to go and find some of the other critters so they could help her teach Lionel Lion to read.

The first ones to get there were Roberto Raccoon, Galileo Goat



and Jackie Jackrabbit.

Lionel Lion asked them if they had beginning sounds for their names.

They told him all words and names have a beginning sound. It is the sound you hear at the beginning of the word.

Lionel Lion said his name, Lionel Lion, and he could hear the *luh* at the beginning of his name.

Roberto Raccoon said his name and asked Lionel Lion if he could hear the beginning sound.

"Yes, I hear it - *ruh*, Roberto Raccoon, *ruh, ruh, ruh*." Then he said, "Galileo Goat I hear *guh* at the beginning of your name and Jackie Jackrabbit I hear your sound *juh*."

Carissa told the Critters to line up in Aah-buh-cuh order so they could tell Lionel Lion their sounds.

"What's Aah-buh-cuh order?" asked Lionel Lion

Carissa explained that it is the order of the alphabet from letters A to Z. It is what is called the ABC's. But in order to learn to read you have to learn the sounds that the letters represent. So instead of the names of the letters - the ABC's, you need to learn the sounds that the letters represent, the Aah-buh-cuh's.

"Is this the Secret Code that Grandfather Owl told me about?"

"Yes, it is part of the Secret Code. But you have to learn the whole Secret Code in order to read anything in English."

"Is it going to be hard?" asked Lionel Lion.

Carissa laughed and told him, "Oh no! It's going to be fun."



The Critters lined up starting with Annie Antelope. Carissa told them to say their name and to say their sound three times so that Lionel Lion would be sure to hear it.

Annie Antelope *aah aah aah*
 Beta Butterfly *buh buh buh*
 Callie Cat *cuh cuh cuh*
 Donnie Dog *duh duh duh*
 Ethel Elephant *eh eh eh*
 Fanny Fish *fuh fuh fuh*
 Galileo Goat *guh guh guh*
 Horace Horse *huh huh huh*
 Inspector Inchworm *ih ih ih*
 Jackie Jackrabbit *juh juh juh*
 Katarina Kangaroo *kuh kuh kuh*
 Monica *muh muh muh* - She left an empty space next to her

Lionel Lion asked "Why is there a space between Katarina Kangaroo and Monica Monkey?"

Carissa told him, "There is one sound missing. We need a *luh* sound in the Secret Code. Does anyone have a *luh* sound?"



"*Luh luh luh*. Oh that's my sound," sang Lionel Lion as he moved into the empty space. "So I am part of the Secret Code."



Newton Newt *nuh nuh nuh*
 Oscar Ostrich *ah ah ah*
 Pierre Pig *puh puh puh*
 Queenie Quail *kwuh kwuh kwuh*
 Roberto raccoon *ruh ruh ruh*
 Sir Sounds-A-Lot Snake *suh suh suh*
 Tortuga Turtle *tuh tuh tuh*
 Umberto Umbrella Bird *uh uh uh*
 Vulcana Vulture *vuh vuh vuh*
 Wally Walrus *wuh wuh wuh*
 Rex Ox *ksuh ksuh ksuh* (the ending sound of six)
 Yukon Yak *yuh yuh yuh*
 Zed Zebra *zuh zuh zuh*



“So we all have a beginning sound” said Lionel Lion. “Do you have a beginning sound, Carissa?”

“I sure do. Can you hear it when I say my name, Carissa?”

"It's *cuh*. Isn't it?" asked Lionel Lion

"That's right. Everyone's name has a beginning sound. We call it the engine sound because it is like an engine on a railroad train. The engine pulls the train and the beginning sound pulls the word."



Ask your child to say their name and the beginning sound they hear. If your child has a name Phyllis or Phillip, do not think of the spelling, think of the sound, *fuh*. If your child's name is Jose concentrate on the sound, *huh*, not the spelling. If your child has a sound that is not one of the first 26 sounds, Charlie (*Chuh*) or Sharon (*Shuh*) help them hear the sound and explain that we will learn that sound later. Children can line up and make a train and march around making sounds. As they become faster at saying the sounds they can make the train start slowly *aah --- buh ---cuh* and then pick up speed *duh - eh - fuh* and go faster *guh-huh-ih juhkuhluh* and on - as fast as they can say the sounds.

"Now let me show you what we can do with the beginning sounds of the Critter's names," said Carissa. She told Fannie Fish, Umberto Umbrella Bird and Newton Newt to line up and say their beginning sounds in that order. They said *fuh-uh-nuh*.



Carissa asked Lionel Lion, "Do you know how to slide?"

"Yes, I love to slide," replied Lionel Lion. "I love to slide on the slide at the playground and I can slide across the floor." He showed Carissa how he could slide.

“Good Job,” said Carissa. “Now we are going to slide the sounds together.”

She told Fannie Fish to say her sound, *fuh* and hold it until Umberto Umbrella Bird said his *uh* sound. She told Umberto Umbrella Bird to hold the *uh* sound until Newton Newt said his *nuh* sound. She wanted one sound to slide into the next sound.

They said their sounds from left to right *fuh uh nuh*. She told them to say them faster *fuh-uh-nuh*. Faster *fuhuhnuh*.

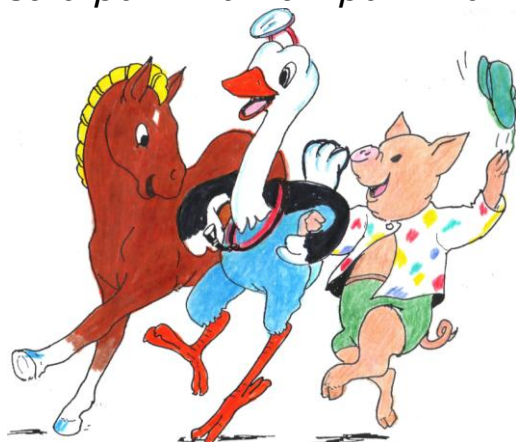
Lionel Lion shouted, “I hear *fun*. I hear the word, *fun*. *Fuh-uh-nuh* makes the word, *fun*. Oh, this is fun.”

Carissa said, “This is how we make words by sliding sounds together.”

“Oh, let’s make another word,” said Lionel Lion.

Oscar Ostrich said, “I want to tell Lionel Lion about my sound, *ah*. When you go to the doctor he tells you, ‘Open your mouth and say *ah*,’ My sound is the doctor sound, *ah-ah-ah*.”

Carissa told Horace Horse, Oscar Ostrich and Pierre Pig to line up and slide their sounds together. Horace Horse said his *huh* sound and held the sound until Oscar Ostrich said *ah*. He held *ah* until Pierre Pig said *puh*. *Huh ah puh*. *Huh-ah-puh*.



"Hop, I hear hop, I can hop," shouted Lionel Lion as he hopped up and down.

Katarina Kangaroo and Jackie Jackrabbit came out and hopped with him.



Lionel Lion was so happy to find out how sounds could be put together to make words. He asked Carissa if he could try to say all of the Critter's sounds. The Critters lined up again and he pointed to each critter as he said the sound.

Aah buh cuh duh eh fuh guh huh ih juh kuh luh muh nuh ah puh kwuh ruh suh tuh uh vuh wuh ksuh yuh zuh.

Then he started doing his favorite thing – singing. He sang the ABC song but this time he did it with the sounds instead of the letter names. All the Critters joined in with him. They sang:

Aah buh cuh duh eh fuh guh
 huh ih juh kuh luh muh nuh
 ah puh qwuh ruh suh tuh uh
 vuh wuh ksuh and yuh and zuh
 Now we know our Aah Buh Cuh's,
 next time won't you sing with us?



Ask the child, "Can you point to the Critters and say each one's name and beginning sound three times?" (Why do we add the uh sound to the pure sound of the letter? We do it deliberately so that the child can hear the sound and sustain it to slide the sounds together and also to use to sing the sounds and do exercises to the sounds.) Eventually the child will be able to say each Critter's name and beginning sound and then just the sound without the Critter's names. They will be able to sing the Aah-Buh-Cuh song.

Carissa gave Lionel Lion a page with pictures of all the Critters so he could practice their sounds. She told him to start at the top of the page on the left side and go across as he pointed to each Critter and said their name and their beginning sound. Then she told him to move his paw all the way back to the left side and go across the next row of pictures. She explained that it is very important to go top to bottom and left to right across each row because that is the way we read.



Have the child take the card with the pictures on it (that comes with the book) and practice saying the Critters names and sounds. Have them point with their finger as they say the names and sounds. It is very important to reinforce left to right across each row and top to bottom. This is training the brain to read from left to right. **Do not cut the cards apart. The child will need to review this card. Use only the picture side.**

Chapter 2 Words

When Lionel Lion came back for his next lesson in learning to read, all the Critters were there to help. They lined up in Aah-Buh-Cuh order and Lionel Lion said all the sounds. Then Lionel Lion wanted to sing the sounds because he loves to sing. So they all sang the Aah-Buh-Cuh song again.

The Critters had fun making new words with their sounds for Lionel Lion to sound out. Pierre Pig, Annie Antelope and Newton Newt told Lionel Lion to say their sounds from left to right. He said, "*puh-aah-nuh.*" Then they told him to slide the sounds together and he said, "*puhaahnuh*" He said them faster and he exclaimed, "I hear the word, *pan!*"



Inspector Inchworm told Pierre Pig and Newton Newt to stay where they were and he took Annie Antelope's place in the middle. "Now say the sounds from left to right," he told Lionel Lion.



Lionel Lion said, "*puh - ih - nuh, puhihnuh, pin*. I hear the word *pin*. Inspector Inchworm changed the word from *pan* to *pin*. This learning to read is really fun. When you change the sounds around they make different words."

"Let us make a word" said Roberto Raccoon, Ethel Elephant and Donny Dog.



Lionel Lion said their sounds, "*ruh-eh-duh*" then he slid them faster, "*ruhehduh*. I hear the word *red*. Red is my favorite color."

Callie Cat said, "We are going to make a word and we want you to see if you can slide the sounds in your head and do what the word says." Callie Cat told Lionel Lion to stand next to her and then Annie Antelope and Pierre Pig stood on his other side. Lionel Lion said the sounds in his head, *cuh-luh-aah-puh*. He made them go faster in his mind *cuhluhaahpuh*. He started laughing and clapping his hands. Lionel Lion kept clapping and saying, *cuh,luh,aah,puh, cuh-luh-aah-puh, cuhluhaahpuh, clap*. I helped

make the word *clap*."



Carissa had Lionel Lion use his practice card to tell her the names and beginning sounds of all the Critters. She reminded him to point to each picture as he said the name and sound. He asked her, "Why do I have to point to the picture?"

She said, "The more senses you use, the faster you will learn. If you just say the sounds you will learn, but if you use all of your senses you will learn faster. "

"What do you mean? What are my senses?"

Carissa told Lionel Lion to hold up his paw. She pointed to each of the toes and said, "This will help you remember to see the picture, touch the picture, say the sound and hear the sound so you will learn 4 times faster. The more senses you use, the faster you will learn."



Lionel Lion laughed and said, "But, Carissa, I can also smell and taste. Those are senses too. And I smell something yummy right now."

Pierre Pig came in pushing a cart with a big bowl of popcorn. "This is my snack of the day *puh-puh-puh* - popcorn. So you can use your senses to smell and taste the *puh* sound, popcorn."

Lionel Lion stuffed some popcorn in his mouth as he mumbled, "The more senses I use, the faster I will learn."



When teaching young children you can have a snack of the day, praise word of the day and other activities based on the sound of the day. Plan your own or go to www.actionreading.com to order Carissa's Review Cards with Tips of the Day.

After the popcorn party, Carissa showed Lionel Lion how he could cut his cards apart and use the pictures of the Critters to make words just like the Critters had been doing with their whole bodies.

After he had them all apart, she told him to line up all of the Critter cards across the top of his desk in Aah-buh-cuh order. The Critters said they would help him and they all lined up in Aah-buh-cuh order so he could look at them to see how to arrange his cards.

After he was finished he pointed to each card and said the name of the Critter and the beginning sound from aah to zuh.



Have the child review the card pointing to each picture and saying the name and the sound going left to right and top to bottom. Then have the child cut the cards apart. Have them put the cards in Aah-buh-cuh order and point to each picture and say the name of the Critter and the beginning sound. **Do not use the backs of the cards yet.**

Carissa told Lionel Lion to take the card with the picture of Monica Monkey and put it on the left side of his desk. Then she told him to put the Annie Antelope card next to it and the Newton Newt card on the end. She told Lionel Lion to say each sound from left to right. Lionel Lion said, "*muh-aah-nuh.*"



"Now say and hold the *muh* sound as you slide the card against the Annie Antelope card and say and hold the *aah* sound as you slide it into the Newton Newt card and then say the *nuh* sound. You will see how we can slide sounds together to make words."

Lionel Lion saw and heard the sounds slide into each other to make *muh-aah-nuh*. Lionel Lion exclaimed excitedly, "I slid the cards and the sounds together and the word *man* came right out of my mouth."

Carissa laughed and told Lionel Lion to leave the Monika Monkey and Annie Antelope cards where they were but to put the Newton Newt card back in the right place in his cards across the top of the desk. She told him to take the Pierre Pig card and put it on the end.



Lionel Lion did it and then he said the sounds as he slid the cards together, “*muh-aah-puh. Map, map, the word, map, just came right out of my mouth. I guess words are made up of sounds and we can change them around and make different words.*”

“That’s right,” said Carissa. “This is the first part of the Secret Code: knowing that words are made up of sounds. Let’s make some more words by sliding the cards and saying the sounds.”

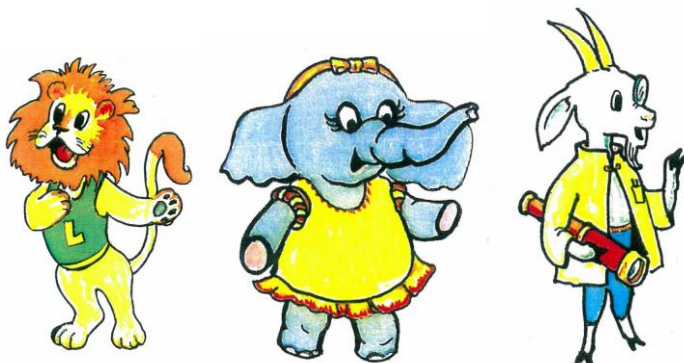


Sir Sounds-A-Lot Snake slithered up and started hissing his favorite little song.

“Suh-suh- sssslide the sssounds from left to right. Sssslide them til they fit real tight. Sssslide the sssounds from left to right. Then you’ll hear the words all right.”

Every time Lionel Lion made a word Carissa asked him if he knew what the word meant. She told him to use the word in a sentence.

Carissa told him to take his card, the Lionel Lion card, and put it on the left, then add the Ethel Elephant card and the Galileo Goat card. Lionel Lion slid the cards as he said the sounds *luh-eh-guh* and he heard the word, *leg*, come right out of his mouth. She asked him to show her his leg.



She told him to keep his Lionel Lion card on the left but to put the Ethel Elephant card and the Galileo Goat card back in their places. She told him to put the Inspector Inchworm card in the middle and put the Pierre Pig card on the end.



When he slid the sounds *luh-ih-puh* he made the word, *lip*. He pointed to his lip and said, "This is my lip."

Carissa told Lionel Lion to practice making words with his deck of Critter Cards.

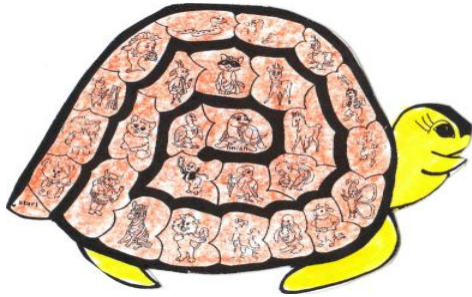


Have the child put the cards out in Aah-buh-cuh order and practice sliding the sounds to make words. Be sure that each time they put the card back in its proper place in Aah-buh-cuh order. Use only short vowel regular words. **There is a list of words in the back of the book for you to use to have your child make with the Critter cards. Have the child tell you what the word means and use it in a sentence. (This is the beginning of reading for comprehension).**

Tortuga Turtle said that she would help Lionel Lion practice his sounds. She had a game that they could play to learn all of the sounds.



First they made a paper dice. Then they each found a small pretty rock to use as a marker. Tortuga Turtle rolled the dice and the number 4 came up. She counted 4 Critters on the game board. As she moved her marker across each Critter she said the



Critter's name and engine sound (beginning sound). Donny Dog *duh*, Ethel Elephant *eh*, Pierre Pig *puh* and she put her marker down as she said Fanny Fish *fuh*.

Lionel Lion rolled the dice and it landed on 5. He counted 12345 and he put his marker down and said, "Sir Sounds-A-Lot Snake *suh*."

Tortuga Turtle laughed and said, "No! You can't just count over the Critters. You have to say every name and sound. If you forget to say the sounds – I win!"

Lionel Lion went back and said each name and sound.

Tortuga rolled the dice and got 2. She counted 2 from where her marker was and said Sir Sounds-A-Lot Snake *suh* and Inspector Inchworm *ih*, as she set her marker down. Then Lionel Lion rolled 3 and he moved three Critters forward; Inspector Inchworm *ih*, Queenie Quail *kwuh*, and landed on Jackie Jackrabbit *juh*.

They played the game until Lionel Lion got to the picture of Tortuga Turtle in the middle of the game and he yelled, "I'm the winner. Let's play again."



The Turtle Shell Game and Dice pattern is included in your book for you and your child to play. Children love the competition and will play it over and over. Be sure that they are saying the names and sounds of the Critters on every space they move. The purpose of the game is to learn the sounds.

Chapter 3 Writing Letters

When Lionel Lion came back he had practiced and knew all his engine sounds.

Carissa told him the next step in learning to read is to learn how to write the symbols that represent the sounds. She said, "Remember how Oscar Ostrich told you about his doctor sound; Open your mouth and say, *ah*?"



She told Lionel Lion to say Oscar Ostrich's sound *ah* and to make a big circle with his mouth. Then she drew a circle O and said this is the way we write the sound *ah*. We can write a big O and a little o they both represent the sound *ah*.

She had Lionel Lion write a row of O o O o O o O o. Each time he wrote a letter he had to say the sound *ah ah ah* and not the letter name.

Next she drew a straight line l and said, "This is how to write your sound *luh*. There is a little l and a big L. They both represent the same sound *luh*." He wrote a row and said the sound *luh* each time he wrote a big L or a little l. Next she showed him how to write Annie Antelope's sound *aah* with a and A.

Lionel Lion said excitedly, "Those are letters. That's the letter A. I know the ABC's"

Carissa explained that those are letters and there are capital or upper case letters and small or lower case letters. But ABC's are the names of the letters and letter names do not make words. The sounds that the letters represent make the words.

Lionel Lion was perplexed. He didn't understand.

Carissa said, "See A Bee."

Lionel Lion looked all around and said, "Where? I don't see a bee."

Carissa said it again, "See A Bee."

Lionel Lion looked all around and said, "Where? Carissa, I don't see a bee."

Carissa said it a third time, "See A Bee." But this time she explained, "See A Bee. Those are the names of the letters C-A-B. But when I say See A Bee you do not hear a word. If I say the sounds that the letters C-A-B represent you will hear a word. C represents the *cuh* sound, A is the *aah* sound and B is the *buh* sound. *cuh-aah-buh*. Now what do you hear? *cuhaahbuh*."

"Oh, I hear the word *cab*. Now I get it. That's why I had to learn the sounds first. Letter names don't make the words. Letter sounds make the words."

"That's right, Lionel Lion. Now when you see the written letters you will say the sounds not the letter names and the words will come right out of your mouth and you will be reading."

Lionel Lion shouted, "That's it! That's the Secret Code! I knew my ABC's but I couldn't read because ABC's don't make words. The letter names don't make words. The sounds make the words. You have to know the sound that each letter makes to be able to read the words."

"Now, will I be able to read anything?" he asked.



"Not right away," explained Carissa. "The first part of the Secret Code is learning that there are 26 letters with 26 sounds. You will need to master those before we go on to the rest of the Secret Code."

"That's why Grandfather Owl kept saying 26-44-70 for the Secret Code isn't it? What does the rest of the code 44-70 mean?"

"We will get to that after you learn how to write all the letters and make words with them. In English we have 26 letters but we have 44 different sounds that we make with our mouth to make all of the words in the English language."

"Wow!" exclaimed Lionel Lion, "that's a lot of different sounds."

"Yes it is," Carissa said, "but in all of the different languages in the world there are 150 sounds. In English we use 44 of those sounds to make all of our words."

"How many words do we have in English?" asked Lionel Lion

"The dictionary has over 150,000 words."

"Whew," sighed Lionel Lion, "that's a lot of words. What's a dictionary?"

"A dictionary is a book of words. It tells you how to pronounce a word and what the word means," explained Carissa.

"But wait, Carissa, if there are over 150,000 words in the dictionary, how do you find the word you are looking for?"

"The words are arranged in alphabetical order."

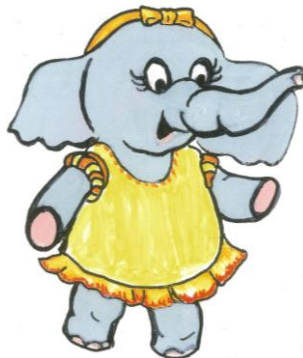
"Alphabetical order?" pondered Lionel Lion, "that's how you told the Critters to line up – in alphabetical order- from aah to zuh – from Annie Antelope to Zed Zebra."

Lionel Lion was still thinking about the 150,000 words when he let out a big sigh and said, "Gee, Carissa, I'm sure glad I found out about the Secret Code. I would never learn to read if I had to memorize 150,000 words by sight."

"That's right, Lionel Lion. But, I will let you vote on how you want to learn to read. Do you want to memorize 200 words a year by sight for 8 or 10 years and know about 2,000 words or do you want me to teach you the Secret Code 26-44-70 and be able to read anything in English?"

"Oh, Carissa, that's a silly question. I vote to learn the Secret Code. How long is it going to take me to learn the whole Secret Code and be able to read anything?" Lionel Lion wanted to know.

"That depends on how fast you can master the code and remember to say the sounds and not the letter names"



Ethel Elephant said, "I learned to read in three months because I practiced really hard and an Elephant never forgets. In English we have letter names and letter sounds. The sounds are what make the words. An Elephant never forgets."



Donny Dog said it took me and Callie Cat a whole year because we were only in first grade and we had to learn to write, too."



Galileo Goat and Newton Newt said they were in a special adult class and they learned to read in two weeks.

Lionel Lion said, "So, the names of the letters don't make the words, the sounds do."

"That's right," said Galileo Goat as he picked up his guitar.
"What is this called?"



Lionel Lion said, "It's a guitar."

"Yes it is," said Galileo Goat. "The name of this instrument is a guitar. But the name of the instrument does not make the music." He strummed the guitar and said, "The sounds make the music."

Pierre Pig started playing the piano and repeated, "The name of the instrument does not make the music. Sounds make music."



Then Donny Dog joined in with his drum.





Beta Butterfly said she was going to teach Lionel Lion another song to the tune of the Muffin Man Song, "Oh do you know the muffin man, the muffin man, the muffin man? Oh do you know the muffin man who lives on Drury Lane?"

All the Critters joined in and sang-
Does Lionel know his aah-buh-cuhs, his aah-buh-cuhs, his aah-buh-cuhs?
Does Lionel know his aah-buh-cuhs? They're what he needs to read.

Lionel Lion sang-
Yes, I know my aah-buh-cuhs, my aah-buh-cuhs, my aah-buh-cuhs.
Yes, I know my aah-buh-cuhs. They're what I need to read.
Aah buh kuh, duh eh fuh guh, huh ih juh kuh, luh muh nuh,
Ah puh kwuh ruh suh tuh uh, vuh wuh ksuh yuh suh
They're all I need to read.

Carissa taught Lionel Lion how to write the 26 letters and showed him how to write words and read them. She said, "Write down the letter that makes the Fanny Fish sound *fuh*. Next to that write the letter that represents the Umberto Umbrella Bird *uh* sound and then the letter for the Newton Newt *nuh* sound."

Lionel Lion wrote down the letters: f-u-n. He read the word out loud, "*fun*. This word says, *fun*. Oh, let's write more words."

Carissa told Lionel Lion to put out his deck of Critter cards across his desk. He told her the sounds from *aah* to *zuh* as fast as he could. Then she told him to turn each card over. The back side of each card had the lower case letter for that sound.

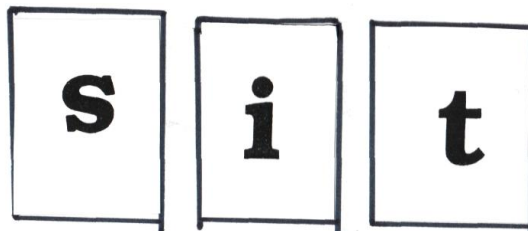
Lionel Lion said, "These are the ABC's" and he started to say ABCD and then he remembered that letter names don't make words and he started again to say the *aah-buh-cuhs* as he pointed to each card.

When he finished he smiled and said, "I remember just like an elephant. Letter names do not make the words. The letter sounds make the words."

Carissa told him to take the *huh* card and then the *aah* card and then the *tuh* card. He said, "*huh-aah-tuh* that makes *hat*. The word is *hat*." He put the cards back in order.



Carissa told him to make the word, *sit*. He took the *suh* card then the *ih* card and last the *tuh* card as he said the sounds, *suh-ih-tuh* and the word *sit*.



"Excellent job," said Carissa. "Lionel Lion you are learning how to write and spell at the same time that you are learning to read. Reading and writing are the same skill. When someone writes something down that is called encoding and when you look at the letters and read the words from left to right that is called decoding."

"Aha!" exclaimed Lionel Lion, "That is the code! Encoding is writing it down. Reading is decoding the written word or message. That's why it's called a code. That's the Secret Code."

"You are a smart Lion, Lionel. You are figuring out the Secret Code. Reading is a skill that you learn once. You learn the skill of reading and then you use that skill to study subjects and read for information and for pleasure. You learn to read and then you read to learn."



Have your child learn to write all of the capital and lower case letters. Do NOT call them by the letter name. This will actually slow down the process of learning to read. Have them say the sound every time they write a letter. Young children will need to learn to write one or two letters per day. Older students can go much faster but must concentrate on saying the letter sound NOT the letter name. For older students you may want to order FUNdamentals Tutorial Program as it goes much faster and all of the teaching is done for you on CD's and DVD's. www.actionreading.com

Sir Sounds-A-Lot Snake slithered up and said, "I want to sssshow you how to make the sssshapes of the ssssounds, the letters. He curved his body into a capital B and asked Lionel Lion, "What sound is this?"



"Buh," said Lionel Lion.

Then Sir Sounds-A-Lot Snake wiggled and the top curve of the B



went away and left b.

Lionel Lion said, "That is the lower case b and it still says buh."

Carissa told him, "I call it the baby b. When you write it think about playing baseball. First you write the stick. That's the bat. Then you make the circle, the ball. First the bat and then the ball, *buh, buh, buh.*"

l o b

Lionel Lion took a stick and wrote b in the sand as he said, "First the bat and then the ball, *buh, buh, buh.* Why do I have to say the sound as I write the letter?"

Carissa and Sir Sounds-A-Lot Snake said together, "The more senses you use the faster you learn.

"Now here's the fun part," said Sir Sounds-A-Lot Snake. "SSSSome people mix up the lowercase or baby b with the

lowercase d," as he flipped himself over and turned into



"You can practice your letters by using clay or play dough and rolling it out into little ssssnakes like me and then sssshaping it into the letters. When you sssspell a word, if you mix up the



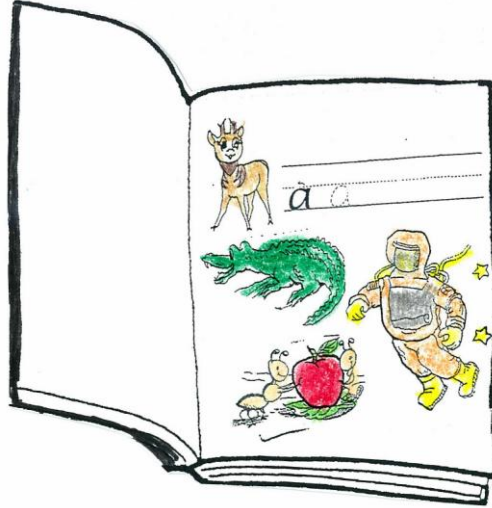
baby b and the lowercase d you can just flip it over."

Carissa gave Lionel Lion some clay to shape into his aah-buh-cuh letters.



Have the child make letters with clay. You can also use cereal such as Cheerios and then the child can eat the letters.

Robert Raccoon said he would help Lionel Lion practice writing his sounds. He showed him a book that he had made. He called it his *Secret Code - Book of Sounds*. He told Lionel Lion that he would help him make one of his own.



He showed him the first page. It had a capital A and a lowercase a and some lines to practice writing the letters. Roberto Raccoon had cut pictures out of magazines and newspapers of things that started with the aah sound and pasted them on the page. He even had a picture of Annie Antelope on the page to help him remember the sound. Each page had a place to practice writing the sounds, a picture of the Critter whose name started with the sound and pictures that he had found of things that started with that sound.



Make an Aah-buh-cuh book of the Secret Code sounds or contact www.actionreading.com to order one of Carissa's Critters writing books.

Chapter 4 Reading Decodable Text

Lionel Lion learned all of the 26 letters and their sounds. Carissa had him write lots of words and read words that she wrote.

Sir Sounds-A-Lot Snake sang his song with a new verse:
"Suh-suh- sssslide the sssounds from left to right. Sssslide them
til they fit real tight. Sssslide the sssounds from left to right.
Then you'll hear the words all right.
Suh-suh-suh-ssssound it out. Ssssound it out.
See a word and sssound it out. That's what reading's all about.
When you see a word to read - sound it out is all you need."

Lionel Lion joined in and they sang the song again.



Carissa wrote
and told Lionel to sound out the word.
He said, "fan-tas-tic"

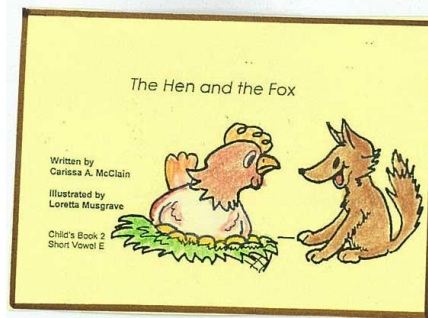
She said, "Now say it all together."

"Fantastic. The word is fantastic."

"That's right, Lionel Lion, you are doing a fantastic job of learning to read. The word is divided into three parts called syllables. In the dictionary they put a little dot in between the syllables to help you pronounce the word."

She had him read sentences. She explained how to leave spaces between words when he wrote a sentence. She taught him how to start with a capital letter and how to end with a period or question mark.

Lionel Lion wanted to read a book that he saw on Carissa's shelf. She explained that he still didn't know all of the Secret Code so he needed to only read words, sentences and stories that had the sounds he had learned up to that point. "That is called decodable text. You will not have a word or story with a sound that you have not yet learned." Then she gave him a book to read that only had the sounds he knew.



Lionel Lion was very excited. Carissa told him that she was going to tell him a word that he would see in the book so that he could read it. It has a sound that you will learn about pretty soon. The word she told him was *the*. He read the name of the book, The Hen and the Fox.

Lionel Lion read the book to his Critter friends. They all cheered for him.

Carissa gave him other little books to read that only had the sounds he had learned so far.



Parent Tip Have your child use their cards to make words and read them to you. Help them spell words by hearing the sounds. Use only words with the first 26 sounds. There is a list of words and sentences in the back of the book. Make little story books using only the first 26 sounds. These are the consonants and short vowel sounds. You can order Carissa's little story books at www.actionreading.com.

Chapter 5 Shortcuts

Lionel Lion was heading back to the Reading Ranch for his next lesson when he met Annie Antelope and Newton Newt going there too. They told him they knew a shortcut to get there faster. They cut across a hill and slid down the other side to the gate.



Carissa told Lionel Lion that there was a shortcut to sliding sounds together to make words. Annie Antelope and Newton Newt are shortcut slider friends so instead of saying the *aah* sound and then the *nuh* sound they can say their sound together faster and make the sound *an*.

Monica Monkey said that she would help to show Lionel Lion how it worked. She stood on the left side of Annie Antelope and Newton Newt and they said their sounds *muh-an*. *muhan*.



"*muhan*," said Lionel Lion. "I hear the word *man*."

Newton Newt said, "I can make shortcut sliders with other friends, too". He gave Lionel Lion some cards to add to his deck. When Ethel Elephant stood next to Newton Newt they didn't have to say *eh nuh*. Together they said *en*.



Pierre Pig stood on the left of them and asked, "What word is this?"

Lionel Lion said, "*puh- en puhen* you made the word *pen*. I can write that word." He wrote *pen*.



He looked at the cards that Newton Newt had given him. Inspector Inchworm and Newton Newt made the sound *in*. Oscar Ostrich and Newton Newt made the sound *un* and Umberto Umbrella Bird and Newton Newt made the shortcut slider sound *un*.



Lionel Lion said the shortcut sliders *an en in on un* then he made words with his cards using the picture side to help him remember. He turned the cards over to the letter side and made more words.

an en in on un

Carissa told him he could take a newspaper and look for shortcuts in words. She gave him a colored pencil and told him to underline them to show that they went faster. He found lots of shortcuts in words. He complained that he wanted to read the newspaper. Carissa told him that he still had more sounds to learn before he could read stories in the newspaper and anything else in English.

At his next lesson he learned about some other shortcut sliders. Beta Butterfly Annie Antelope, Callie Cat and Katarina Kangaroo lined up in front of Lionel Lion. He said their sounds *buh-aah-cuh-kuh*.

They laughed and said, "You don't have to say *aah-cuh-kuh*. You can say the shortcut sound *ack*. So the word is *buh-ack* back."




Carissa gave him more shortcut cards for his deck so he could make words with *ack eck ick ock uck*.






Lionel Lion said he was going to practice all his sounds and make words with them and underline all of the shortcuts in the words so that when he came back for his next lesson he would be ready to start learning some more sounds.

"I will remember - the more senses I use the faster I learn -

see - touch - say - hear  And right now I am using my sense of taste," as he licked a lollipop. He sang "Lionel Lion licking a lollipop *luh luh luh.*"



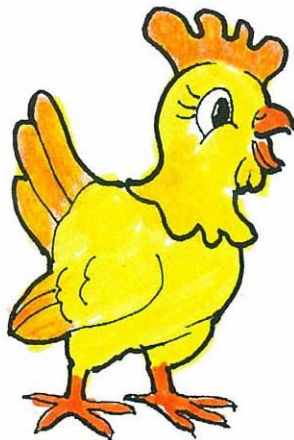
 Add the shortcut slider cards to your child's deck of cards. Make words and sentences using the Critter cards and the shortcuts. Have your child underline shortcuts in newspapers or magazines. Every time they write a word with a shortcut remind them to underline it so that they see it as a unit. There are lists of words in the back of the book. It is very important to enunciate clearly so that the child learns to spell accurately. Words like; pan, pen, pin must be pronounced clearly in order for the child to hear the correct short vowel sound. Also words such as; pack, peck, pick, pock, and puck.

Chapter 6 Two Letters to Make One Sound

Lionel Lion laughed when he saw the sign that Pierre Pig had painted for him.



Lionel Lion took a small paintbrush and underlined the ick and an that he saw in the words. He read the words, "Stop Quicksand. If I knew how to read I would not have gotten stuck in the quicksand. It really is really important to learn how to read. Chiquita Chicken told Carissa, "I think Lionel Lion is ready to learn my sound *ch*."



Lionel Lion said, "I hear your sound. Chiquita Chicken *ch ch ch* but I don't know how to write it. I only have 26 letters and none of them say the sound *ch*."

Carissa smiled and said, "That is the same thing that happened to the people in England when they tried to write their language using the alphabet that they got from the Romans. They couldn't use the *cuh* and *huh* sounds because Chiquita is not a *cuh huh ick en*. So they decided that whenever the letter C was in front of the letter H it would represent the *chuh* sound."

"Whenever I see ch in a word I will say the *chuh* sound,"

Carissa told Lionel Lion to circle the ch so that he would remember that it takes two letters to make that one sound.

She gave him a card to add to his deck. It had a picture of Chiquita Chicken on the front and the letters ch on the back. She told him to put out his cards with the letter side up and see if he could make the word, chicken.

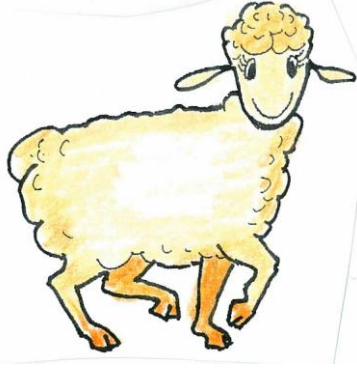
Lionel Lion laid out the **c h i c k e n** cards. He said, "Is this the right order, Carissa? Is this how to spell chicken?"

Carissa laughed and said, "Yes, it is. But you don't have to try to memorize the word or which order the seven letters go in. All you have to do is sound it out. Now what sound do you hear first?"

ch ick en

"Oh, that's right!" exclaimed Lionel Lion, "I should use the Chiquita Chicken *ch* card instead of the two letters c and h. And I should use the shortcut *ick* card and the shortcut *en* card. Then I would only have to sound out the word and say *ch ick en* the three sounds instead of trying to remember where to put the seven letters."

"You are so smart." Said Chiquita Chicken, "You have figured out the secret to being a good speller."



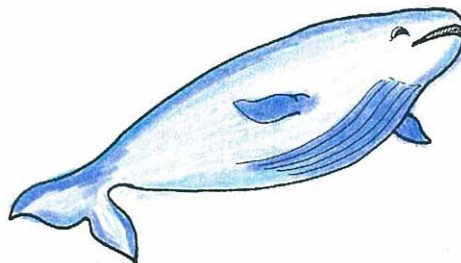
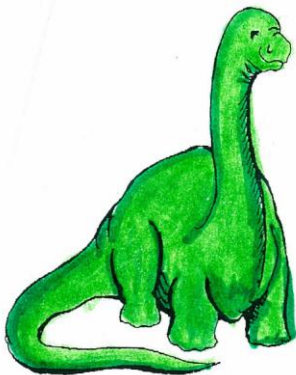
Shelly Sheep told Lionel Lion that the same thing happens with her sound *sh*. It takes two letters to make her sound *sh sh sh*.

Carissa gave Lionel Lion the Shelly Sheep *sh* card to add to his deck. She told him to make the word, ship.

This time he wasn't fooled. He took the ship cards and made the word with three cards.

The ground started to shake. Lionel Lion yelled, "Take cover. It's an earthquake!"

"No," chuckled Chiquita Chicken, "that's just my friend Thor Thunder Lizard. He's so big that he shakes the ground. He's coming to tell you about his sound *th th th*. It's another 2 for 1 sound. It takes two letters to make one sound."



Thor Thunder Lizard brought Whitney Whale with him because Whitney Whale's sound *wh wh wh* is also a 2 for 1 sound.

Lionel Lion was happy to have new sounds to add to his cards and practice finding them in the newspaper and circling each sound to

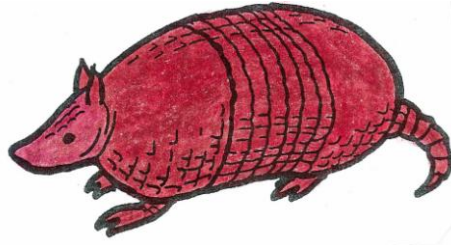
remind him that it takes two letters to make the sounds *ch sh th wh*.



Have your child add the 2 for 1 sounds *ch sh th wh* to their cards and make words. Have them circle the sounds in newspapers or any throw away materials. Dictate words and simple sentences for the child to write. Use only the sounds they have learned so far. There is a list of words in the back of the book. You can order additional materials from www.actionreading.com

Chapter 7 More 2 for 1 Sounds

Carissa and the Critters were very proud of Lionel Lion. He was working hard to master all of the sounds he had learned.



Arlene Armadillo taught him her sound *ar ar ar*. She told him it takes 2 letters to make her sound.

Lionel Lion said, “*ar* that’s the name of the letter R.”



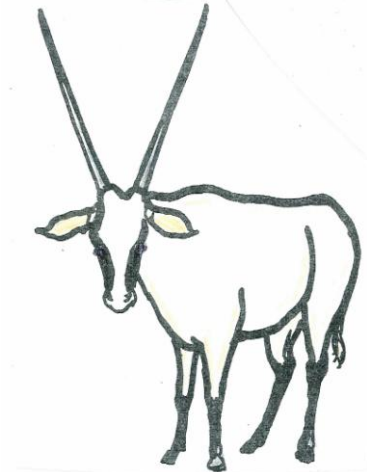
“Yes it is,” said Roberto raccoon, “but when you see the letter R by itself, remember it makes my sound *ruh*. When you are writing a word and you want to have the *ar* sound (the name of the letter R) you have to spell it with Arlene Armadillo’s sound *ar*.”

Lionel Lion looked confused.

Carissa told Lionel Lion to write the word farm. He wrote frm and said, "*fuh r muh.*"

Roberto Raccoon told him, "That's not correct. What you wrote is *fuh ruh muh fuhruhmuh* does not say farm. When the letter R is alone, it says my sound *ruh*. When you want the *ar* sound, you have to spell it with the ar - Arlene Armadillo's sound *ar ar ar.*"

Lionel Lion tried it again. This time he sounded it out and wrote farm. He said, "*fuh ar muh fuharmuh* farm. Now I see why it is so important to learn the sounds so I can spell."

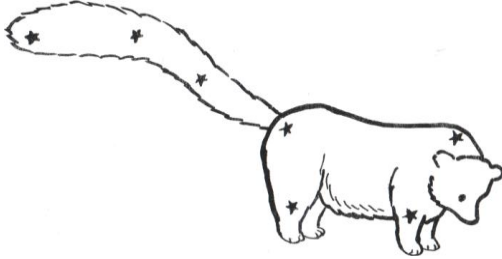


Orville Oryx asked Lionel Lion if he could hear his beginning sound. Lionel replied, "I hear Orville Oryx *or or or*. Is it a 2 for 1 sound also?"

Orville Oryx told him it was and he showed him how to write it with 2 letters.

Carissa gave Lionel Lion cards for Arlene Armadillo *ar ar ar* and Orville Oryx *or or or*. He was busy writing more words when he looked up and saw the three bears approaching.

Carissa said, "This is the Ursus family. Ursus is the scientific name for bear. If you look up at the night sky you will see the Ursa Major Constellation –The Big Dipper (Alaska State Flag)



Here is Papa Irving Ursus, Baby Erving Ursus and Mama Ursula Ursus. All three make the same sound, but it is spelled three ways – *ir er ur*.



Add the *ar or er ir ur* cards to the deck. Have the child do all of the activities they have done with each sound. There is no way to distinguish which spelling to use for the er, ir, ur sounds. Your child must practice and learn the spellings as they come from different language groups. Older students will want to look up words in the dictionary to determine which language the words came from.

Chapter 8 Vowels



Inspector Inchworm got lost. He was scared until he saw his friend Ethel Elephant coming. The *eh* didn't say anything but because she was there, he felt braver and he could say the strong name of his letter which is I. (The name of the letter I)

When two vowels are together the second one gives its strength to the first one so it can say its strong name.

Inspector Inchworm said, "When two vowels go walking – the first one does the talking."



ie

"I am Ike Ibex. I make the I sound – Ike Ibex *i i i*. This is how you mark the letters to remember that I make the I sound."

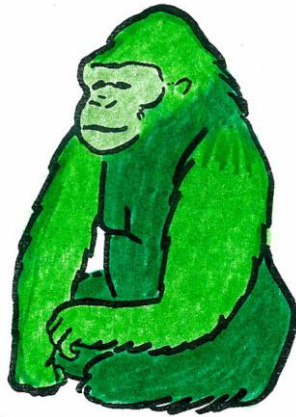


Write these words and have your child mark them giving the strength to the letter I to show that it says the strong (or long) I sound.

Lionel Lion was startled and ducked as Ezekiel Eagle circled over his head and screeched a loud EEEE.



Carissa said, "Ezekiel Eagle is just telling you his sound. It is the name of the letter E. You spell the strong sound ea or ee.



Abe Ape said, "I make the strong sound of the letter A. Abe Ape *a a*. You spell my sound ai in the middle of words and ay on the ends of words."



Otis Okapi said his strong or long sound *o o o* spelled oa and oe.



Eugene Unicorn said his sound *u u u* spelled *ui ue* and also *ew*.

Carissa explained to Lionel Lion that vowels are special letters because they have 2 sounds the short or weak sound *aah eh ih ah uh* and the long or strong sound *A E I O U*.

She said, "The weak or short vowel sounds are the easiest because it only takes one letter to make that sound. *a e i o u* represent the short vowel sounds *aah eh ih ah uh*."

Lionel Lion said, "I know the short vowel sounds my Critter friends taught them to me." He said, "aah eh ih ah uh".



Carissa explained, "The strong vowel sounds are the names of the letters *A E I O U*. They are harder to learn because it take two letters to spell their sounds. You will need to practice reading and writing the vowel sounds and remember to mark them. It will help you learn them. She gave him the strong (long) vowel cards to add to his deck.

Carissa hung up the 26 letter cards and said, "We are going to have some fun to help you remember that vowels are very special. Show me which letters are vowels and say the short or weak sound."



Lionel laughed and held up his paw, "The more senses I use – the faster I learn."

Lionel pointed to a e i o u and said aah eh ih ah uh.

"Now we are going to say the Aah-buh-cuh's but each time we say a vowel sound we are going to bend over and touch our toes."

"This is good exercise," said Lionel Lion

Carissa said, "Now we are going to say the Aah-buh-cuh's again, only this time instead of saying the vowel sound we are going to clap like this –

Clap buh cuh duh clap fuh guh huh clap juh kuh luh muh nuh clap puh kwuh ruh suh tuh clap vuh wuh ksuh yuh zuh



Have your child write and mark words with long vowels from the list at the end of the book. Use only words that are provided. They will learn about other vowel spellings and irregular vowel sounds later. Clap the vowels and do toe touches to the vowels when saying the Aah-buh-cuhs.

Chapter 9 Vowel Endings

Lionel Lion loved to sing lots of different songs using the Aah-buh-cuh's to replace each syllable in a song. He was singing the tune to the song - *Are You Sleeping Brother John*. But he was using the sounds;
Aah buh cuh duh

Eh fuh guh huh
 Ih juh kuh
 Luh muh nuh
 Ah puh-kwuh ruh-suh tuh
 Uh vuh-wuh ksuh-yuh zuh
 Aah buh cuh
 Aah buh cuh

Carissa told him to try to sing the same song and say Buzz for each vowel sound. Buzzing the vowels helps you remember that they are special.

BUZZ buh cuh duh
BUZZ fuh guh huh
BUZZ juh kuh
 luh muh nuh
BUZZ puh-kwuh ruh-suh tuh
 BUZZ vuh-wuh ksuh-yuh zuh
BUZZ buh cuh
BUZZ buh cuh

Carissa said, "The letter E is the strongest letter in the alphabet. It can fly right over the top on another letter and give its strength to a vowel. She wrote the word hope.

Ezekiel Eagle soared in and showed how he could fly right over the letter p and give his strength to the letter o. He said, "Find a vowel, find a friend (the letter next to it) but look out for the e on the end.



Carissa wrote the word hop. Lionel read the word hop. Then she added the e and the word was changed from hop to hope.

“See how strong I am?” boasted Ezekiel Eagle.

Lionel Lion said, “I will watch out for the letter e on the end. I will remember – Find a vowel, find a friend but look out for Ezekiel on the end.”



Have the child mark words showing the e on the end giving its strength to the other vowel. Have them learn the saying *Find a vowel, find a friend, but look out for Ezekiel on the end*. Show them how powerful the letter Ee is.

Demonstrate how the e can completely change the word. tub...tube

rat...rate at...ate star...stare tap...tape can...cane pal...pale
man...mane mad...made plan...plane

Carissa taught Lionel Lion that when e or o is on the end of a very short word or syllable it says its long name in words like me, she, go and jello. She had him read some sentences to practice.

Jim can go on the subway with me. (go) (me)

He will not go home for lunch. (he) (go)

She told him that the letter y is not vowel but it can act like one on the ends of words. She told him a little poem to help him learn about y.

Cousin y is tricky and sly. Sometimes he says e and sometimes he says i.



Have the child read the words with y on the end and see if they can figure out when the y says e and when it says i. Clue: How many vowels do you see in the word? How many syllables?

When Carissa and Lionel Lion came back the next day they noticed that the door to the classroom was open a little bit. Lionel Lion started to say his Aah-buh-cuh sounds but the aah card was missing. He said, "buh cuh duh," and saw that the eh card was also missing. He looked at the rest of the letters and said, "Carissa, the a e i o u and y cards are all missing. I can't review my Aah-buh-cuhs."

She told him to make some words with the cards that were left. He tried to make the word, hand, but he didn't have a letter a. He tried the word, stop, but he was missing the letter o. He tried to make, help, but he needed the letter e. He tried and tried but he couldn't make any words.

He said, "I don't have any vowels and I can't make a word without a vowel."

"You are right. We better figure out who took the vowel cards."

Lionel Lion noticed some tracks on the floor and said, "I think these are raccoon tracks. Maybe Robert Raccoon took the vowel cards for his *Secret Code Book*. Let's go and see if he has them."



Roberto Raccoon did not have the vowel cards.

Carissa said, "We better get the Best Tracker in the West to help us."

"Who is that?" Lionel wanted to know.

"It's Kid Gila Monster. He'll follow those tracks and find out who took the vowel cards and why."

When Kid Gila Monster looked at the tracks he scowled and said, "I know whose tracks these are. It's the packrat! He takes stuff and hides it in his nest. We'll track him to his nest and get the cards back."



When they got close, Kid Gila Monster told Carissa and Lionel Lion to wait while he looked in the nest. He came back and whispered, "Shhh – be real quiet and go and peek in the nest."

Lionel Lion and Carissa peeked in and they saw the Mama Packrat asleep on a nest of shredded up vowel cards. And sleeping with her were her tiny new babies.



Carissa whispered, "Let's go. We'll make some new vowel cards."



At this point in our programs, the children start reading stories with comprehension questions. To order teaching materials or any of our complete tutorial programs go to www.actionreading.com

Chapter 10 Outlaw Words

Lionel lion was going home when he heard someone howling and laughing. A coyote came out of the bushes and motioned him over.



"Hey, Lionel Lion, Come over here and show me how you can read."

Lionel Lion was very proud that he was learning to read so he went over to read the word the coyote had written. He had written the word, give.

give

Lionel said, "The e gives its strength to the i to make it say its strong name. So guh I vuh the word is gIv. What is gIv?"

"Ha Ha – I tricked you!" laughed the coyote. The word is, give. I'll give you a clue. The letter e isn't helping at all. He's one of my outlaws. Sometimes the letters in my gang don't want to follow the rules. Sometimes they don't help each other."



Kid Gila Monster showed up and chased the coyote away.

“Don’t worry about him. The coyote is a trickster. He’s been tricking Native American tribes since the beginning.”

The next day Lionel Lion asked Carissa about Trickster Coyote. “What did he mean that the words in his Outlaw Gang don’t want to follow the rules?”

She explained that there are a few words that don’t follow the rules. The English language is 97.5% phonetic. The other 2.5% are words where the vowels change sounds a little or they are words that came from foreign languages and kept their old spellings.

She said, “It’s just like the Critters or people in the real world, most of the time People follow the rules but there are a few who don’t. We’ll just make a bulletin board with paper bars and put all those Outlaw words in jail. After you learn what they are and they can’t cause any problems, we’ll let them out.”

Lionel Lion thought that was a very funny idea.

Carissa told him that now that he could read sentences and stories, it would be easy to notice when a word wasn’t following the rules, because sentences had to say something. They had to make sense.

She wrote a sentence on the board and told Lionel lion to read it.

He read, "Sandy hurt her head when she fell." He saw that the word head had 2 vowels but he knew the word was head because the sentence had to make sense.

Carissa taught Lionel Lion other ways to make the letter I say its strong name and gave him words to practice.

ign (the g is silent) in sign

igh (all you hear is the strong i) in high, tight, light and bright

ild in wild and mild

ind in find and kind

Then she told him a story about *eigh* and how it only says the strong a sound in weight and sleigh and neighbor.

He practiced reading words and stories with the strong I sounds.



Have the child practice the ign, igh, ild, ind and eigh words. For additional materials and programs contact www.actionreading.com

Next Carissa taught Lionel Lion other ways to make the strong o sound.

olt in colt, jolt and revolt

old the word old and in told, sold, fold and gold

oll in roll, scroll, troll and swollen

oll when it says the weak or short vowel sound *ah*
doll, jolly, dollar and collar



Have the child practice words and sentences with the olt, old, oll sounds

Chapter 11 Surprise Sounds



Grandfather Owl told Lionel Lion that it was time to learn the surprise sounds.

Lionel Lion asked why he called them surprise sounds.

“Because you are usually surprised when you say them.”
Grandfather Owl pinched Lionel Lion with his beak.

“Ow” yelled Lionel Lion.

“Yep, that’s one of the surprise sounds, *ow ow ow* just like my name. I am an Owl. I surprised you by pinching you and you said the *ow* sound.”

Carissa said, “You can spell the pinch sound with the letters *ow* and also with *ou*.” She gave Lionel Lion some words to read.

ow how, cow, town, vowel and brown

ou ouch, mouth, shout, cloud and our

Grandfather Owl pinched Lionel Lion again.

Lionel Lion chased after him and said, “Oooo you’re gonna get it!”

Grandfather flew up out of reach and said, “That’s another surprise sound, the *oo* you’re gonna get it sound. And I’ll bet you won’t forget it either.”

Carissa laughed and wrote some words for Lionel Lion to practice.

oo moon, soon, pool, too, hoot, roof, broom, zoom and food

Then she said, "There are some other words with oo in them that make a slightly different sound."

oo book, good, look, took, stood, crook, hoof and shook



Have students practice words and read stories with the ow, ou and oo sounds. All of our programs have decodable text. The student will never have a sentence or story with a sound that they have not yet learned.



Carissa showed Lionel Lion an oyster.

"This is the oy sound you hear in boy. It is also the sound in oil." She showed him the two spellings for the oyster sound.

oy boy, joy, toy, oyster, annoy, royal and loyal

oi oil, boil, joint, point, coin, avoid and poise



Have students practice oi,oy sounds.

After Lionel Lion learned all the new sounds and read stories that had the new sounds, he asked Carissa, "Are there any more surprise sounds?"

"Yes, and this one will really surprise you. It's a sound that you learned in the very beginning."

Oscar Ostrich was checking a sick baby ostrich. "Open your mouth and say Ah."



He asked Lionel Lion, "Do you remember my sound?"

"Of course I do. It's the doctor sound, *ah ah ah.*"

"Well, it's also called by another sound name and it is spelled lots of different ways."

"Aw, I don't believe you," said Lionel Lion as he gave an away motion with his paw. "You're just trying to tease me."

"You said it, Lionel Lion. It is the *aw I don't believe you sound aw aw aw.* It is the same sound that you spell with the weak vowel sound *o* and pronounce *ah*. But, it can be spelled seven different ways. And they all say *aw.*"

Carissa showed him the different spellings and had him read words, stories and sentences with the sound.

aw saw, straw, law, paw, crawl, draw, yawn, squawk and raw

au auto, because, pause, haul, applaud, August, author and fault

all fall, tall, ball, call, stall, small, and all
al almost, altogether, halter, walnut and bald

alk walk, stalk, talk, chalk (in America we don't pronounce the l)

aught caught, taught, naughty, daughter (the gh is silent)

ought bought, fought, brought thought (the gh is silent)



It is hard even for adults to realize that these are the same sound as the weak or short o sound. Have the student practice the aw sounds: au, aw, all, alk, alt and aught and ought.

Lionel Lion could read so well now that he asked Carissa if he had learned the whole Secret Code yet.



"Not quite, yet," she answered. "You learned to write the 26 letters but you still have one more sound to learn and a few more ways to spell the sounds."

Lionel Lion groaned, "Oh, no. Is it another hard one?"

She laughed and said, "Well, let's see what you think." She wrote a sentence on the board.

I think that Lionel Lion is going to be a great reader because he is doing so well and learning all 44 sounds.

Lionel Lion read the sentence and looked at Carissa with a proud but perplexed look. "So, what's the last sound that I have to learn?"

"You just read it. It is the *ng* sound. You read it in the words going, doing and learning. I call it the ringing sound because I

can hear the *ng* in the word, ringing. You can hear it in *ring, rang* and *rung*."

"I hear it!" exclaimed Lionel Lion, "the ringing sounds like a bell – ring, rang, rung. That was an easy sound. I like it."

Carissa said, "Now listen to this *ink, ank, unk*."

"Oh, they kind of ring too. I can hear them in sink, sank, sunk."

Lionel Lion let out a big happy roar and shouted, "I know all the sounds. I know the 26 letters and I know the 44 sounds!"

Carissa told him that there was another sound that had no written form of it in English. It is the sound you hear in the words pleasure and treasure. It sounds like zh.



Have students practice words with the ringing sounds; ing, ang, ung and ink, ank, unk.

Chapter 12 The Rest of the Secret Code

When Lionel Lion came back for his next lesson he told Carissa that he was trying to count up the sounds and he started going through them.

He only got as far as *aah buh cuh* when she stopped him. She held up the c card and the k card.

Lionel Lion grinned and said, "I forgot that they both make the same sound - *cuh* and *kuh* are the same sound. The letter C and K make the same sound."

Carissa told him that the C has no sound of its own. It takes the sound of K and it also takes the sound of the letter S.

“How do I know which sound to use when I am reading?”

Carissa replied, “It’s easy. When C is front of the letters E, I or Y, it makes the *suh* sound. The rest of the time it makes the *kuh* sound.” She wrote some words for Lionel Lion to practice.

CE center, race, face, spice, voice, celery, grocery, since and dice

CI circus, city, dancing, accident, excite, civil, decide and acid

CY icy, cycle, fleecy, mercy, spicy, juicy, frequency and recycle

Carissa told Lionel Lion that the letter G uses two sounds also but he does get to count the sound for G because it makes the *guh* sound.

When the G is front of the letters E, I or Y most of the time it uses the *juh* sound instead of the *guh* sound. She gave him words to practice.

GE germ, age, fudge, dodge, urge, orange, lodge and hedge

GI giant, magic, ginger, origin, giraffe, origin and charging

GY energy, gypsy, gym, stingy, gyp, stodgy and gyrate

When Lionel finished reading the words, he cheered because now he knew all 26 letters and all 44 sounds. He was so happy because now he could pick a book out of Carissa’s library and read it. He took an adventure book home to read that night.



Have your child practice the ce, ci, cy and ge, gi, gy words.

The next day Lionel Lion bounced in and said, “I love to sing *luh luh luh* and now I love to read, too. I know the 26 letters and the 44 sounds so what’s the rest of the Secret Code, the 70 part?”

Carissa answered, "The Secret Code 26-44-70 means 26 letters, 44 sounds and 70 ways to write or spell the 44 sounds. I will show you some different ways to spell the sounds you already know then you will have learned the entire Secret Code and you can read anything. You will be an accurate, independent, proficient reader."

She explained that some letters are silent. We use them to spell but we do not pronounce them.

WR (the w is silent) write, wrap, wrong and wrapper

KN (the k is silent) knee, knife, knob and know

PS (the p is silent) psalm, psychology and pseudonym

GN (the g is silent) gnaw and gnash

GH (the h is silent) ghost, ghastly and ghetto



Have students practice words with silent letters. In our classroom and tutorial programs we explain the derivation of these words.

Carissa told Lionel Lion about the many spellings for the Shelly Sheep sound *shuh shuh shuh*.

tion, sion (pronounced *shun*) vacation, action and discussion

tial, cial (pronounced *shal*) initial, facial, racial and special

tient, cient (pronounced *shent*) patient and efficient

cious, tious (pronounced *shush*) precious and nutritious

Carissa explained that ph makes the Fanny Fish sound *fuh*.

PH (*fuh*) alphabet, phony, elephant, nephew and telephone

GH on the ends of words can make the *guh* sound

ugh says aff in the word laugh

ough can say ow	or uff	or auff
bough, drought	tough, rough	cough

or oo	or o
through	though, dough, although and thorough

ugh can say aff
laugh

Lionel lion laughed because now he knew the Secret Code.
The Critters all cheered and Carissa presented him with a
Medal that said: I know the Secret Code 26-44-70



Congratulate your student and present them with a certificate or award.

Making Words with Critter Cards (use only short vowels)

Sir Sounds-A-Lot Snake, Inspector Inchworm, Rex Ox = six
 Horace Horse, Umberto Umbrella Bird, Galileo Goat = hug
 Pierre Pig, Ethel Elephant, Tortuga Turtle = pet
 Roberto Raccoon, Umberto Umbrella Bird, Newton Newt = run
 Sir Sounds-A-Lot Snake, Inspector Inchworm, Tortuga Turtle = sit
 Sir Sounds-A-Lot Snake, Annie Antelope, Tortuga Turtle = sat
 Fanny Fish, Annie Antelope, Tortuga Turtle = fat
 Fanny Fish, Annie Antelope, Newton Newt = fan
 Beta Butterfly, Annie Antelope, Tortuga Turtle = bat
 Tortuga Turtle, Oscar Ostrich, Pierre Pig = top
 Pierre Pig, Oscar Ostrich, Tortuga Turtle = pot

Shortcut Words

AN grand plan scan ran sand land plant can ant fan man stand infant

EN end dent hen lend pen mend send lend tent dentist absent invent

IN pin fin win sin skin twin hint lint grin mint wind instruct intend

ON fond bond pond upon lemon contest tonsil dragon blond

UN fun hunt runt bun sun gun spun stunt funnel until tunnel

ACK jack tack sack back black lack pack crack packet jacket

ECK neck deck peck speck fleck heck beckon reckless

ICK sick tick kick pick lick stick slick brick trick ticket nickel

OCK sock dock lock hock rock clock rocket pocket flock mock

UCK duck tuck luck puck buck suck muck truck stuck bucket

Two for One Words

CH inch chip much chop chest ranch chin chat chicken such chill

SH ship shut shop dish wish ash push shot gush finish shipment

TH thin math thump cloth path bath then than that this them the

WH when whip whiz what whip whack whim which whittle whisker

AR car jar tar far farm star hard park smart mark yarn farmer market

OR born fort sort cord horn for corn short port forth thorn north order

ER her herd fern perk clerk person invert filter silver helicopter number

IR stir firm girl third shirt skirt thirst first dirt confirm squirrel bird first

UR lurk burn turn spur hurt curl fur curb burst church furnish purple

Strong Vowels

AI nail mail sail wait chain jail trail drain faint explain paint rain pail

AY say pay may day hay gay tray clay away stay yesterday pray

EA bean lean mean team real each deal sea tea peach teach meat

EE queen seed bee sweet green see sleep three greet sheep free

IE lie tie pie die cried tried fried implied spies ties

OA oats goat boat oatmeal toast raincoat loan loaf float soak goal

OE hoe toe doe Joe goes toes

UI suit fruit recruit suitable suitor

UE blue due glue true Tuesday clue rescue continue cruel

EW blew new flew chew crew news screw threw grew grew

