

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Encoding Multisyllable: Long *a* Spelled *ay*, *a\_e*, *ai*

PLAN

**Component:** Encoding

**Instructional Activity:** Using Clues to Select the Right Pattern:  
Multisyllable Words (*ay*, *a\_e*, *ai*)

**Materials Needed:** sound-spelling cards, whiteboards, markers



**Approximate Time:**  
7 minutes



**Click here for video  
example**

- ✓ Individual
- ✓ Small Group
- ✓ Large Group

OBJECTIVE

**State the objective(s).**

Let's learn a strategy for choosing the right spelling pattern when there is more than one way to spell a sound. We will focus on three patterns for long *a*: *\_ay*, *a\_e*, and *ai\_*. You will know you have it when you can choose the correct pattern for each of five long *a* words containing one of those patterns.

REVIEW &  
VOCABULARY

**Review prerequisite skills and teach related vocabulary.**

Remember, a *spelling pattern* is one or more letters that work together to spell a single sound. In the English language, a spelling pattern can have one, two, three, or even four letters! But a spelling pattern always spells one sound. A spelling pattern can also be called a *grapheme*.

In this lesson, we will look at three spelling patterns for the sound /āāā/: *\_ay*, *a\_e*, and *ai\_*. You have already learned to read and spell using each of these patterns. Today, we will learn a strategy for choosing which of the graphemes we should use when spelling an unfamiliar word containing long *a*.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Encoding Multisyllable: Long a Spelled ay, a\_e, ai

**Demonstrate.** Teach the new skill, model with clear explanations, verbalize your thinking process.

Write these patterns on the board: \_ay a\_e ai\_. Be sure to write the blanks as well as the letters.

Let's pretend I want to write this sentence: *Can you explain the delay in the start of the parade?* I already know how to spell most of the words in the sentence. But I'm having trouble with three words: *explain, delay, and parade*. I'll show you the strategy I use to spell *parade*, then you will help me with the other two words.

The first thing I do is I tap out the syllables in the word. The word is *parade*: *par* (tap) *ade* (tap). Two syllables.

Second, I stretch and spell each syllable.

The first syllable is *par*. When I listen for the sounds in that syllable, I hear /per/, but I know it's because the syllable has a schwa sound. If I said the syllable like a robot\*, it would sound like this: /par/. I can stretch and spell this syllable: /p/ (write p) /ar/ (write ar). The second syllable is *ade*: /āāā/. I have to stop here and think. The sound /āāā/ can be spelled *a, a\_e, or \_ay*. I have to decide which one to use. I'm going to put a blank here and then sound out the rest of the syllable: /āāā...d/. I know /d/ is spelled *d*, so I write *d* after the blank.

Third, I'm going to figure out what the best choice is to spell the sound /āāā/ in *parade*. I have to eliminate the patterns I can't use. I think through what I know about each pattern and decide whether it is a possible spelling in this word. For example, I know that the pattern *\_ay* usually comes at the end of a word, and it is not followed by a consonant sound. In the word *parade*, /āāā/ is followed by the consonant sound /d/. So I can eliminate the pattern *\_ay*. Cross out *\_ay* on the board.

Fourth, I choose a pattern that is left and use it to spell the word. There are two patterns remaining: *a\_e* and *ai\_*. Both of these patterns have to have a consonant sound following the sound /āāā/ in the syllable. I guess either of them could be correct!

I'm going to write the word *parade* on the board both ways: once with *a\_e* and the other with *ai\_*. Write *parade* and *paraid* on the board. Now, I think: Which one looks right? I've probably seen this word before, and my brain may remember the way the word looks. Point to *parade*. I think this is it! I think *parade* is spelled p-a-r-a-d-e.

I'll sound out and read the word to check it: /p...er...āāā...d/. The word is *parade*!

I DO IT!

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Encoding Multisyllable: Long a Spelled ay, a\_e, ai

WE DO IT!

### Provide guided practice.

If possible, provide individual whiteboards, markers, and erasers to students for use in this activity. **Let's spell the word *delay* together. Remember, the most important part of spelling is the thinking, not the writing, so put your markers down. We're going to think aloud how to spell the word.**

Write *\_ay*, *a\_e*, and *ai\_* on the board again. **First, tap the syllables in *delay*.** Students and teacher: /dēēē/ (de) /lllāāā/ (lay).

**Second, stretch and spell each syllable. What's the first syllable?** Students and teacher: *de*

**Stretch and spell the sounds in *de*.** Students and teacher say each phoneme and write the corresponding grapheme: /d/ (write *d*) /ēēē/ (write *e*) *Note: If students say *delay* with a schwa sound instead of a long e sound, say: Listen! Here's how a robot would say this word: /dēēē...lllāāā/. How do you think you spell it?*

**Now, stretch the sounds in *lay*.** Students and teacher: /lllāāā/. **What's the first sound in *lay*?** Students and teacher: /lll/. **How do you spell /lll/?** Students and teacher: *l*. **Write it. How do you spell /āāā/?** Point to the three ways to spell *a* written on the board. Students and teacher: *\_ay*, *a\_e*, or *ai\_*.

**Third, eliminate the patterns that cannot be used here. There are three ways we can spell the sound /āāā/. Can you tell me a pattern that cannot be used in *lay*, and explain your thinking?** Call on 1-2 students to tell a spelling for /āāā/ that could not be used in *lay*, and explain their thinking. For example, *a\_e* can't be used because it has to be followed by a consonant sound in the syllable, or *ai\_* can't be used because it also must be followed by a consonant sound. Allow students time to consider each pattern and determine whether it can logically be used in *lay*.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Encoding Multisyllable: Long a Spelled ay, a\_e, ai

WE DO IT!

### Provide guided practice. (continued)

Fourth, use the pattern that remains to spell the sound. So how do we spell the sound /āā/ in *lay*? If you chose *\_ay*, you are correct. The grapheme *\_ay* is the most common spelling for /āā/ at the end of a word, and it is not followed by a consonant sound.

Now, pick up your markers. Stretch and spell *lay*. Write it next to the first syllable *de*. Don't put a space between them--the two parts make a whole word. Students and teacher: /d/ write *d*; /ēēē/ write *e*; /lll/ write *l*; /āāā/ write *ay*.

Now, point under each spelling pattern and sound out the word from left to right. Students and teacher: /d...ēēē...lll...āāā/.

What's the word? Students and teacher: *delay*



If students need support with:	Then try this:
Encoding multisyllabic words	Build confidence with single-syllable words until they have developed the skill of selecting the correct spelling pattern when there's more than one option.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Encoding Multisyllable: Long a Spelled ay, a\_e, ai

YOU DO IT!

**Provide independent practice.**

**Your turn. Think through the spelling of the word *explain*. What's the word?** Students only: *explain*

**What is the first step?** Students: Tap the syllables. **Do it.** Students: *ex* (tap) *plain* (tap)

**What is the second step?** Students: Stretch and spell each syllable.

**Stretch and spell *ex*. How did you spell /ěě/?** Students: *e* **Write it.** **How do you spell /ks/?** Students: *x* **Write it.**

**Tap the syllables in *explain* again.** Students: *ex* (tap) *plain* (tap) **What's the second syllable?** Students: *plain*

**Stretch and spell *plain*. How did you spell /p/?** Students: *p* **Write it.** **How do you spell /ll/?** Students: *l* **Write it.**

**Do you have to choose from more than one spelling pattern to spell /āā/?** Students: *yes*

**Draw a blank where the spelling for /āā/ will go. What's the last sound in *plain*?** Students: /nnn/ **How do you spell /nnn/?** Students: *n* **Write it.**

**What is the third step?** Students: Eliminate the patterns that can't be used.

**Think: Which patterns could *not* be used to spell the /āā/ in *plain*?** Give students time to think and respond. Possible answers: *\_ay* can't be used; it usually comes at the end of a word and is not followed by a consonant sound

**What is the fourth step?** Students: Choose a pattern that remains to spell the sound.

**What can you do to help you decide which pattern to choose?** Students: write it both ways **Do it.**

**Look at both words (*plane* and *explain*). Which one looks right?** Allow students to discuss both options and choose the one they think is correct. Scaffold for the correct response: *explain*.

**Check your work by pointing under each pattern and saying the sound. What's the word?** Students: *explain*



If students need support with:	Then try this:
Deciding between three spelling patterns for a given sound	Eliminate one of the patterns and have them choose between two instead.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Encoding Multisyllable: *Long a Spelled ay, a\_e, ai*

ASSESS

**Assess students (formally or informally).** *Determine the level of mastery for the stated objective.*

Observe individual students as they respond during guided and independent practice. Scaffold or correct all errors. Provide specific feedback for accurate responses.

ENRICH/EXTEND

**Enrichment/Extension.** *Provide enrichment and extension activities for students who need less support.*

Have students create a short video in which they explain to their audience how to choose between the patterns *\_ay, a\_e, or ai\_* to figure out the */āāā/* spelling in one or more of the following words: *dismay, arcade, domain*.