



Decoding

Students will know the a_e convention for representing the “a” long vowel sound and decode regularly spelled one-syllable words with the a_e spelling pattern.

Prepare



- Write a large a_e on the board
- Below the a_e, write:

ate	spr	ame	thr	str
est	ame	ir	abe	ph
ade	qu	ape	tch	ind
- Write these words on index cards: name, tame, came, fame, game, same, fame, flame, blame, date, fate, gate, mate, late, slate, skate, state, cake, lake, make, take, fake, flake, snake, shake, ale, pale, male, gale, bale, tale, stale, shale, fade, made, shade, blade, base, case, chase, ape, cape, tape, grape.
- Provide paper and pencil for each student.

Introduce a_e (5–7 mins)



- Write *tap* on the board; make the letters at least a foot tall.
- Remember what happens when we add the magic e at the end of a word, like *tap*? Add an e to change *tap* into *tape*. The e stays silent, and it changes the sound of the letter a. Remember, adding the e at the end of the word makes the vowel say its name. What’s the vowel here? Students should respond a. What’s the long vowel sound for a? Students should respond /A/. So what’s this word now that I’ve added the e? Students should respond, *tape*.**
- Erase *tape* and write a mix of 15 letter combinations on the board, arranged randomly: six of the items should be a_e and they should be interspersed with nine other items dissimilar in appearance to a_e, such as *thr* and *ing*.

ate	spr	ame	thr	str
est	ame	ir	abe	ph
ade	qu	ape	tch	ind

Review the Sound a_e makes

- When I point to the a with magic e combination, read the syllable with the long vowel sound. When I point to anything else, give a thumbs down. My turn first.** Point to a series of items and either read the syllable or make a performance of saying nothing, as appropriate.

Model for students.

Introduce a_e (5–7 mins) *Continued*

5. **Your turn. Ready?** Point to letter combinations randomly, holding on each one for a few seconds.
 - a. If a student says the sound for one of the other items (not a_e), point to a_e and say: **You only need to make a sound for these letters. When I point to anything else, stay quiet. Ready?**
 - b. Look for individuals who are saying nothing when you point to a_e. Have those students try items individually until they have it (but don't call only on struggling students). Keep going until everyone has the new sound.
6. **Now each of you will take a turn finding a_e, say the sound it makes /A/ and then trace it with your finger to erase it.** Call on one student at a time to come to the board, find a_e, trace it, and say the long vowel sound /A/.

Read words with a_e—Chaining (8–10 mins)



1. **We are going to practice reading words with a_e. I'm going to show you a word and you will read it out loud. After you read the word, we will change one letter to make a new word.**
2. **Watch me do one.** Write *nam* on the board and point to it. **When I add the magic e at the end of the word *nam*, it changes the vowel sound to /A/, *nam* becomes *name*.**



3. **Let's do one together.** Write *tame* on the board.
4. **Change t to c. What's the word now?** Students should read the new word, *came*.
5. Continue with the following words. Tell students which letters to change and have them read the new word.

name → tame → came → fame → game → same → fame → flame → blame

date → fate → gate → mate → late → slate → skate → state

cake → lake → make → take → fake → flake → snake → shake

ale → pale → male → gale → bale → tale → stale → shale

fade → made → shade → blade

base → case → chase

ape → cape → tape → grape

ace* → face* → lace* → place* → pace* → trace*

To increase student engagement, pose the question first, provide wait time, and then call on individually selected students or on the whole group.

*These words might be more challenging to students.

Use the strategies below to scaffold instruction for students who need it.

Support

1. **When I touch the letter combination, say its sound and keep saying it until I touch the next letter. Don't stop between sounds. After you sound out the word correctly, say it fast.** Underline a_e in each word you write on the board, so students read it as one sound.
2. **Let's try it together.** Start saying the first sound as you touch just beneath the first letter. Hold each sound for about one second. When you come to a_e, put your index and third finger underneath both letters, and read it as one sound. For example, **tAAAmmm. Now, say it fast. What's the word? Tame.**
3. **Your turn. Ready?** Make sure everyone is looking at you, then touch the first letter and let students sound it out and stretch out the sound. Students should say, **cAAAmmm. What's the word?** Students should say *came*.
4. Continue with the rest of the words.

Challenge

1. **Can you think of any other words that have the /A/ sound spelled with a_e?** As students suggest words, write them on the board.
2. Have students practice reading the following words with the a_e spelling: ace, face, lace, place, pace, trace.

Say It, Write It, Read It Word Game (5–10 mins)

Make sure you've erased the words from the board from the previous activity. Get the words you wrote on index cards and shuffle the stack.

1. **We are going to play a game called Say It, Write It, Read It. I'm going to give one of you an index card with a word to read out loud. The rest of you will spell and write the word down. Once you finish writing the word, I will count to three and we will all read the word at the same time. Then we will check our spelling of the word.**
2. **Let's practice.**
 - a. Hand out paper and a pencil to each student. Pick a student and hand out a word to read. The student should say, "the word is (*word*)." **Spell out the word in your head, then write it down.** Watch for students who don't get the a_e spelling.
 - b. **Are you ready? I'm going to count to three and we'll say the word together. One, two, three!** Read the word with students.
 - c. **How did you spell (*word*)?** Call on one student to share out the correct spelling while the rest of students check their spelling of the word.
3. **Let's keep going.** Repeat the steps above and watch for students who don't get the correct a_e spelling. Have them correct their spelling and underline a_e in each word.