

Lexia® Core5® Reading Grapheme Tiles Guide

Grapheme Tiles are a multisensory tool designed to support word recognition instruction and practice while increasing student engagement. Each tile represents a grapheme—a letter or letter combination—that represents one phoneme, or sound.

Why are Grapheme Tiles important?

Grapheme Tiles are a valuable tool for engaging students in active learning by combining visual and kinesthetic experiences. This multisensory learning helps students internalize phoneme-grapheme correspondences, spelling patterns, and word formation. Through educator modeling and hands-on practice, students strengthen their understanding of how sounds connect to graphemes.

How can Grapheme Tiles be used?

- **Prepare the tiles:** Consider printing tiles on cardstock or heavy paper. Attaching a magnetic backing can make it easier to store and manipulate tiles. Make the vowels easy to identify by color-coding them.
- **Arrange the tiles:** Set them up in an array or store them in a way that allows students to find the ones they need quickly.
- **Support foundational dictation routines:** Say a word, segment the sounds, count the number of tiles needed, and model how to use those tiles to build a word. Then, ask students to try another word on their own. Use only phoneme-grapheme correspondences that have been previously taught. Support vocabulary development by defining the target word and using it in a sentence.
- **Reinforce the location of graphemes in a word:** For some word-building activities, consider organizing the Grapheme Tiles in columns labeled *beginning*, *middle*, and *end*. Use this to reinforce that certain graphemes are only at specific locations in a word (i.e., -ff, -ll, -ss, and -zz are at the end of a word).
- **Support High-Frequency Word instruction:** Use Grapheme Tiles to spell the target High-Frequency Word (HFW).
 - Model locating the irregular part of the HFW when needed and marking it with a heart tile provided in this resource.
 - Have students take a mental “picture” of the word before turning the tiles over.
 - Guide students as they name the letters that belong on the tiles.
 - Have students write the word.
 - Display the correct spelling by flipping the tiles back so that students can check their word.
- **Provide immediate feedback:** If students answer incorrectly, repeat the sound(s) again slowly and support them in identifying the correct spelling(s). If students continue to need this guidance, further instruction with that grapheme may be needed.