

Lexia® Core5® Reading

Sound Production Guide

This guide is designed to support educators in effectively modeling how to pronounce each phoneme (sound). Clear and accurate modeling of phonemes helps students attend to and distinguish individual sounds within words. Listening for the sounds within words supports students' phonic decoding and spelling ability.

Each section provides script for modeling and guiding students through the production of the target sound, focusing on how and where the sound is formed in the mouth and whether it is voiced or voiceless. Use mirrors, hand placement, and student repetition to reinforce articulatory features.

Consonant Sounds – Stops

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/b/ bat	b	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /b/. To make the /b/ sound, I put my lips together then pop them open. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /b/, /b/, /b/.
/p/ pig	p	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /p/. To make the /p/ sound, I put my lips together then pop them open. When I put my hand on my throat, I don't feel it move and I don't hear a noisy sound—this is a quiet sound. Now say it with me and feel how your throat stays still: /p/, /p/, /p/.
/d/ dog	d, ed	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /d/. To make the /d/ sound, I tap my tongue lightly behind my top teeth. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /d/, /d/, /d/.

Consonant Sounds – Stops (cont.)

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/t/ toe	t, tt, ed	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /t/. To make the /t/ sound, I tap my tongue lightly behind my top teeth. When I put my hand on my throat, I don't feel it move and I don't hear a noisy sound—this is a quiet sound. Now say it with me and feel how your throat stays still: /t/, /t/, /t/.
/g/ goat	g, gh	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /g/. To make the /g/ sound, I lift the back of my tongue up in the back of my mouth. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /g/, /g/, /g/.
/k/ kite	c, k, ck, ch	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /k/. To make the /k/ sound, I lift the back of my tongue up in the back of my mouth. When I put my hand on my throat, I don't feel it move and I don't hear a noisy sound—this is a quiet sound. Now say it with me and feel how your throat stays still: /k/, /k/, /k/.

Consonant Sounds – Nasals

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/m/ mouse	m, mb, mn	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /m/. To make the /m/ sound, I press my lips together and the sound comes through my nose. Watch as I hold my nose and say the /m/ sound: /m/, /m/, /m/. Could I say /m/ with my nose closed? (no) Now say it with me and feel how the air comes out through your nose: /m/, /m/, /m/.
/n/ nose	n, kn, gn	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /n/. To make the /n/ sound, I press the tip of my tongue behind my top teeth and let the sound come through my nose. Watch as I hold my nose and say the /n/ sound: /n/, /n/, /n/. Could I say /n/ with my nose closed? (no) Now say it with me and feel how the air comes out through your nose: /n/, /n/, /n/.
/ng/ ring	ng, n	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ng/. To make the /ng/ sound, I open my mouth slightly. I then lift the back of my tongue up in the back of my mouth and let the sound come through my nose. Watch as I hold my nose and say the /ng/ sound: /ng/, /ng/, /ng/. Could I say /ng/ with my nose closed? (no) Now say it with me and feel how the air comes out through your nose: /ng/, /ng/, /ng/.

Consonant Sounds – Fricatives

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/f/ fish	f, ff, ph, gh	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /f/. To make the /f/ sound, I put my upper teeth on my bottom lip and blow out air. When I put my hand on my throat, I don't feel it move and I don't hear a noisy sound—this is a quiet sound. Now say it with me and feel how your throat stays still: /f/, /f/, /f/.
/v/ vine	v, ve	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /v/. To make the /v/ sound, I put my upper teeth on my bottom lip and blow out air. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /v/, /v/, /v/.
/th/ thumb	th	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /th/. To make the /th/ sound, I stick my tongue out just a little between my teeth and blow out air. When I put my hand on my throat, I don't feel it move and I don't hear a noisy sound—this is a quiet sound. Now say it with me and feel how your throat stays still: /th/, /th/, /th/.
/th/ them	th	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /th/. To make the /th/ sound, I stick my tongue out just a little between my teeth and blow out air. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /th/, /th/, /th/.
/s/ sock	s, ss, sc, ps, c	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /s/. To make the /s/ sound, I put my tongue behind my teeth and blow out a small stream of air. When I put my hand on my throat, I don't feel it move and I don't hear a noisy sound—this is a quiet sound. Now say it with me and feel the air: /s/, /s/, /s/.
/z/ zebra	z, zz, s	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /z/. To make the /z/ sound, I put my tongue behind my teeth and blow out a small stream of air. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /z/, /z/, /z/.
/sh/ ship	sh	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /sh/. To make the /sh/ sound, I pucker my lips and put my tongue on the roof of my mouth. When I put my hand on my throat, I don't feel it move and I don't hear a noisy sound—this is a quiet sound. Now say it with me and feel how your throat stays still: /sh/, /sh/, /sh/.

Consonant Sounds – Fricatives (cont.)

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/zh/ measure	s, z, si, ge	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /zh/. To make the /zh/ sound, I round my lips slightly and let air pass over the middle of my tongue. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /zh/, /zh/, /zh/.
/h/ hat	h, wh	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /h/. To make the /h/ sound, I open my mouth slightly and push some air through my mouth. When I put my hand on my throat, I don't feel it move and I don't hear a noisy sound—this is a quiet sound. Now say it with me and feel how your throat stays still: /h/, /h/, /h/.

Consonant Sounds – Affricates

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/ch/ cheese	ch, tch, tu	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ch/. To make the /ch/ sound, I put the tip of my tongue on the roof of my mouth and pucker my lips. When I put my hand on my throat, I don't feel it move and I don't hear a noisy sound—this is a quiet sound. Now say it with me and feel how your throat stays still: /ch/, /ch/, /ch/.
/j/ jam	j, dge, ge	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /j/. To make the /j/ sound, I put the tip of my tongue on the roof of my mouth and pucker my lips. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /j/, /j/, /j/.

Consonant Sounds – Glides

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/w/ web	w, q(u)	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /w/. To make the /w/ sound, I round my lips like I'm going to blow out a candle and push air out while my vocal cords vibrate. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /w/, /w/, /w/.
/y/ yoyo	y, eu, i	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /y/. To make the /y/ sound, I put my tongue in the back of my mouth and blow out air. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /y/, /y/, /y/.

Consonant Sounds – Glides (cont.)

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/wh/ wh ale	wh	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /wh/. To make the /wh/ sound, I round my lips like I'm going to say /w/, but I blow out air without using my voice. When I put my hand on my throat, I don't feel it move and I don't hear a noisy sound—this is a quiet sound. Now say it with me and feel how your throat stays still: /wh/, /wh/, /wh/.

Consonant Sounds – Liquids

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/l/ l amp	l, ll, le	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /l/. To make the /l/ sound, I lift the tip of my tongue to touch the roof of my mouth just behind my teeth and blow out air around the sides. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /l/, /l/, /l/.
/r/ r ain	r, wr	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /r/. To make the /r/ sound, I pull my tongue back in my mouth without touching the roof, and I blow out air. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /r/, /r/, /r/.

Vowels – Front

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/ă/ a pple	a	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ă/. To make the /ă/ sound, I open my mouth wide with my lips apart, like I'm taking a bite out of an apple. My tongue is low and near the front of my bottom lip. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ă/, /ă/, /ă/.
/ā/ h ay	a_e, ai, ay, ea, a, ei, ey	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ā/. To make the /ā/ sound, I open my mouth slightly into a small smile. My tongue is raised toward the roof of my mouth and near the front. It starts lower and glides upward as I say the sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ā/, /ā/, /ā/.

Vowels – Front (cont.)

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/ĕ/ edge	e, ea	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ĕ/. To make the /ĕ/ sound, I open my mouth and make a big smile. My tongue is low and near the front of my bottom lip. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ĕ/, /ĕ/, /ĕ/.
/ē/ bead	ee, e_e, ea, ey, y, ei	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ē/. To make the /ē/ sound, I open my mouth and make a big smile. My tongue is close to the roof of my mouth, near the front. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ē/, /ē/, /ē/.
/ĭ/ itch	i, y	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ĭ/. To make the /ĭ/ sound, I open my mouth just a bit, as if I'm making a little smile. My tongue is close to the roof of my mouth, near the front. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ĭ/, /ĭ/, /ĭ/.
/ī/ tie	i_e, ie, y, igh	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ī/. To make the /ī/ sound, I start with my mouth open wide, and then into a smile. My tongue starts at the bottom of my mouth and then moves up and to the front. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ī/, /ī/, /ī/.

Vowels – Low, Mid

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/ŏ/ octopus	o, a	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ŏ/. To make the /ŏ/ sound, I open my mouth wide and let my jaw drop down, almost in the shape of a big letter o, and my tongue is low in my mouth. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ŏ/, /ŏ/, /ŏ/.
/ŭ/ up	u, o, oo, ou	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ŭ/. To make the /ŭ/ sound, I open my mouth, my tongue is low and in the middle of my mouth, and my lips are relaxed. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ŭ/, /ŭ/, /ŭ/.

Vowels – Back, Rounded

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/aw/ yawn	aw, au, a, ough	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /aw/. To make the /aw/ sound, I open my mouth wide, but not too much, and my lips make a circle like I'm about to yawn. My tongue stays low and toward the back of my mouth. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /aw/, /aw/, /aw/.
/ō/ goat	o_e, oa, oe, ow, o	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ō/. To make the /ō/ sound, I open my mouth into a relaxed circle. I then move my lips into a smaller circle and pull the back of my tongue back just a little. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ō/, /ō/, /ō/.
/ōō/ book	oo, u, ou	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ōō/. To make the /ōō/ sound, I push my lips out into a circle shape. My tongue is high but not all the way up, and it's toward the back of my mouth. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ōō/, /ōō/, /ōō/.
/ū/ chew	oo, u_e, ue, ew, ui, ou	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ū/. To make the /ū/ sound, my mouth is tightly rounded like I am going to blow a bubble and my tongue is high and back. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ū/, /ū/, /ū/.
/y/ /ū/ cute	u_e, ew, u, eu	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /y/ /ū/. To make the /y/ /ū/ sound, I open my mouth into a relaxed circle, and my tongue is high with the sides close to the roof of my mouth. I move my lips into a smaller circle and pull my tongue down. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /y/ /ū/, /y/ /ū/, /y/ /ū/.

Vowels – Diphthongs

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/oi/ boy	oy, oi	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /oi/. To make the /oi/ sound, I start with my mouth rounded and my tongue low in my mouth. Then, I slide my tongue up and forward, and my mouth gets wider. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /oi/, /oi/, /oi/.

Vowels – Diphthongs (cont.)

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/ou/ cow	ow, ou	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ou/. To make the /ou/ sound, I begin with my mouth wide open and my tongue in the middle of my mouth. Then, I round my lips and move my tongue up and back. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ou/, /ou/, /ou/.

Vowels – R-Controlled

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/ar/ car	ar	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /ar/. To make the /ar/ sound, I open my mouth wide and pull my tongue back a little. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /ar/, /ar/, /ar/.
/er/ her	er, ur, ir	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /er/. To make the /er/ sound, I open my mouth just a little. My tongue starts in the middle of my mouth and then curls back just a bit. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /er/, /er/, /er/.
/or/ for	or	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound /or/. To make the /or/ sound, my mouth is tightly rounded like I am going to blow a bubble. My tongue starts low and in the back of my mouth and then pulls back a little more. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /or/, /or/, /or/.

Other (Phonemes made up of a combination of sounds)

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/k/ /s/ box	x	Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound for /k/ /s/. To make the /k/ /s/ sound, I start by putting the back of my tongue up by the roof of my mouth. Then, I let the air out and push my tongue to the front. When I put my hand on my throat, I don't feel it move, and I don't hear a noisy sound—this is a quiet sound. Now say it with me and feel how your throat stays still: /k/ /s/, /k/ /s/, /k/ /s/.

Other (Phonemes made up of a combination of sounds) (*cont.*)

Phoneme	Grapheme(s)	Teacher Script
/k/ /w/ queen	qu	<p>Watch my mouth and listen to my voice as I say the sound for /k/ /w/.</p> <p>To make the /k/ /w/ sound, I start by rounding my lips. Then, I open them wider while my tongue stays in the back of my mouth. When I put my hand on my throat, I can feel it move and I hear it make a noisy sound. Now say it with me and feel your throat move: /k/ /w/, /k/ /w/, /k/ /w/.</p>