

# Vowel Teams ai, ay, ee, ea, and oa

**How to use:** Print first for the main practice. Then use the device to repeat activities and save progress.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Recognize the vowel teams ai, ay, ee, ea, and oa
- 2 Say the long vowel sound each team makes
- 3 Sort words into the correct vowel team group

## MINI LESSON

When two vowels team up inside a word, they usually work together to make just one long vowel sound — that is why we call them vowel teams!

### ai and ay — the long /a/ team

- ai usually appears in the middle of a word.
- Example: rain, snail, trail.
- ay usually appears at the end of a word.
- Example: play, stay, day.

### ee and ea — the long /e/ team

- ee and ea both say the long /e/ sound.
- Example: tree, bee, leaf, read.

### oa — the long /o/ team

- oa usually appears in the middle of a word.
- Example: road, toad, boat.

## VOCABULARY

<b>Vowel team</b>	Two vowel letters sitting next to each other that work together to make one long vowel sound <i>e.g. ai in rain, ee in tree, oa in road</i>
<b>Long vowel</b>	A vowel that says its own name — long /a/, long /e/, long /o/ <i>e.g. the /a/ in play, the /e/ in leaf, the /o/ in boat</i>
<b>Middle sound</b>	The sound you hear in the middle of a short word; for vowel teams, it is the long vowel sound the two letters make together <i>e.g. the /a/ in the middle of rain</i>
<b>Ending sound</b>	The sound you hear at the end of a word; ay often appears at the end of a word <i>e.g. the /a/ at the end of day and play</i>

### Vowel Teams

ai

ay

-> long /a/  
rain . play . trail

ee

ea

-> long /e/  
tree . leaf . feet

oa

-> long /o/  
road . toad . boat

### Spot the vowel team!

r

ai

n

-> long /a/

tr

ee

-> long /e/

r

oa

d

-> long /o/

Two vowels working together = one long vowel sound

! Ask yourself: "Can I spot the two vowels working together? What long vowel sound do they make?"

### EXERCISES — SORT & MATCH

Write each word under the correct vowel team column.

#### WORDS TO SORT

rain

tree

toad

snail

leaf

road

stay

bee

boat

play

feet

coat

wait

read

goat

trail

dream

soap

ai / ay (long /a/)

ee / ea (long /e/)

oa (long /o/)

### EXERCISES — MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which vowel team do you see in the word rain?

- ea
- ai
- oa

2. Which word has the ee vowel team?

- coat
- play
- tree

3. The word road has which vowel team?

- ay
- ea
- oa

4. Which word belongs in the ay group?

- leaf
- stay
- load

5. Which word has the ea vowel team?

- boat
- leaf
- rain

6. What long vowel sound do ai and ay both make?

- Long /e/
- Long /o/
- Long /a/

7. Which word has the oa vowel team?

- feet
- snail
- boat

8. What do the vowel teams ee and ea have in common?

- They both make the long /a/ sound.
- They both make the long /e/ sound.
- They both make the long /o/ sound.

9. Which word belongs in the ee group?

- toad
- wait
- feet

10. A vowel team is when \_\_\_\_\_

- two vowels work together to make one long vowel sound.
- two consonants join to make a new sound.
- a word has only one vowel letter.

## ASSESSMENT

### PARENT / TEACHER CHECKLIST

- Reads ai and ay words aloud with a clear long /a/ sound (e.g., says "rain" and "play" correctly).
- Reads ee and ea words aloud with a clear long /e/ sound (e.g., says "tree" and "leaf" correctly).
- Reads oa words aloud with a clear long /o/ sound (e.g., says "road" and "toad" correctly).
- Sorts vowel team words into the correct buckets (ai-ay, ee-ea, or oa) without help.