

# Word Sort

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Short a

Like you hear in "snack"



cap

pal

back

flap

sad

## Long a

Like you hear in "snake"



cape

pail

bake

sail

stay

## Short a/Long a Word sort

This no-prep literacy center activity teaches beginning and developing readers to read and distinguish between long and short **a**.

Learners sort words from a list into an accompanying chart. Several versions of the word list make it easy to adapt the activity for different levels:

The easiest (v. i and v.ii) have simple pairs of a short vowel cvc word followed by a matching long vowel word—e.g., cap/cape, rat/rate, etc. Readers can use this predictable order to know how to read the words and then observe the spelling patterns that make each sound.

The next list (v. iii) has similar word pairs, but the short vowel words do not always come first. So learners have to apply their knowledge of the spelling patterns to read the words and sort them.

The last list has a random assortment of short and long **a** words, all of one syllable, but including more blends and digraphs, plus a handful of challenge words that alert students to watch for exceptions to the pattern.

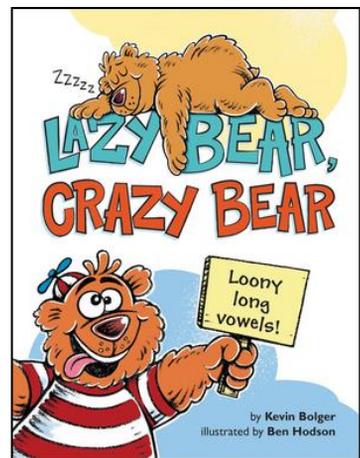
For an additional challenge, especially for quick finishers, learners can go on a Word Hunt to fill in the chart with words from the classroom and books.

These easy adaptations allow learners of varying stages of development to do the same activity together but at their own level. The lists can also be used as a progression to give certain learners repeated practice in consolidating the skill, especially in an RTI setting.

The worksheets are designed so that students can either cut-and-paste or write the words into the sorting chart. But to reduce the fine-motor demands, you can also have them show their understanding by coloring all the short **a** words one color and the long **a** words another. (Then, if desired, they can write an appropriate number of words in the chart.) These modifications make it easy to shorten or lengthen the activity and allow all learners to practice and show their understanding of the concept.

We hope you and your students enjoy, and if you do, please take a moment to rate and review.

The cartoon and the poster at the end are from the book "Lazy Bear, Crazy Bear," a collection of comics that teach the long vowels and long vowel spelling patterns. To read and find out more, visit [www.kevinbolger.com](http://www.kevinbolger.com).



# Word Sort

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Short a

Like you hear in "snack"



## Long a

Like you hear in "snake"



# Short and Long a Word Sort

short a



snack

long a



snake

Sort the words below into the a chart on the next page.

ran	rain	fat	fate
bat	bait	gap	gape
cap	cape	rack	rake
pal	pail	tack	take

# Short and Long a Word Sort

short a



snack

long a



snake

Sort the words below into the chart on the next page.

ran	rain	fat	fate
bat	bait	gap	gape
cap	cape	rack	rake
pal	pail	tack	take
plan	plane	Mac	make
back	bake	tap	tape
pad	paid	van	vane

# Short and Long a Word Sort

short a



snack

long a



snake

Sort the words below into the chart on the next page.

ran	rain	fate	fat
bait	bat	gap	gape
cape	cap	rake	rack
pal	pail	take	tack
plane	plan	Mac	make
back	bake	tape	tap
paid	pad	van	vane

# Short and Long a Word Sort

short a



snack

long a



snake

Sort the words below into the chart on the next page.

sad	sail	ran	gain
jam	say	flap	catch
gave	fan	train	dad
map	grab	drain	whale
van	paid	grape	trap
tail	had	stay	bank
have*	they*	grey*	sleigh*

\* Watch out—tricky words!



# Gran's Reading Rules #1:

Long vowels say their own names.

## Short a



snack



## Long a



snake

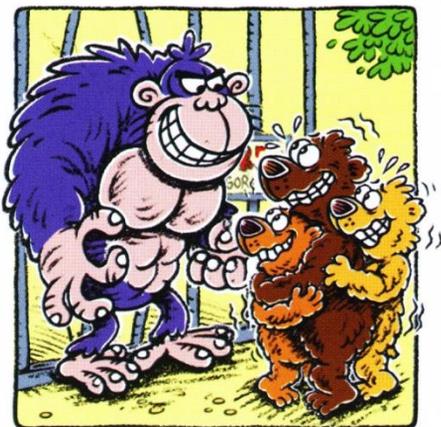
## Short e



Fred

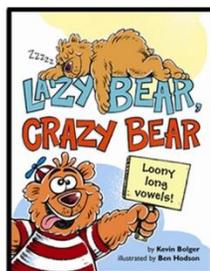


## Long e



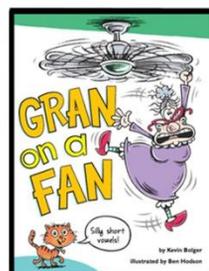
freed

From



Long Vowel Comics

Companion to



Short Vowel Comics

**Short i**



licks

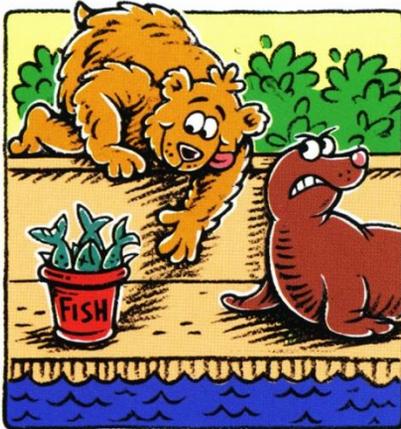


**Long i**



likes

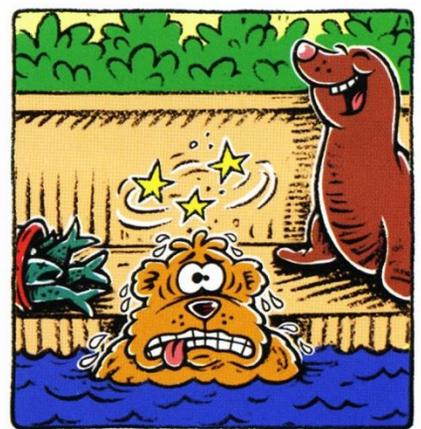
**Short o**



socked



**Long o**

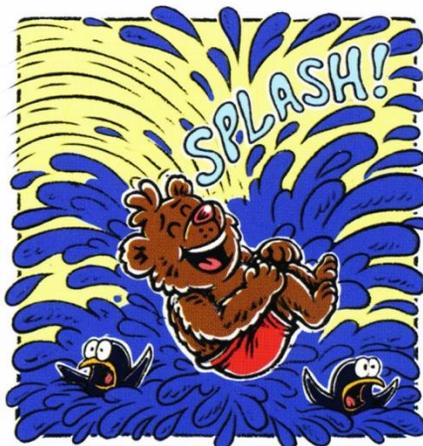


soaked

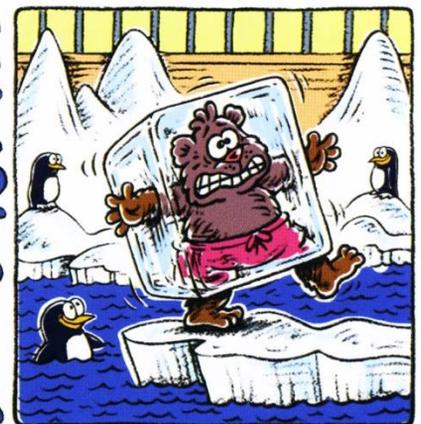
**Short u**



cub



**Long u**



cube



Zzzzz

# LAZY BEAR, CRAZY BEAR



by Kevin Bolger  
illustrated by Ben Hodson