

Letter Sound /a/

Flashcards: Revise the letter sound /s/. The children look at the letter, say the sound and do the action.

Introducing the letter sound: Use a story such as the one below, along with the action.

The Smith family is having a picnic. They spread out a big picnic blanket and lay all their food on it. Adam unpacks the apples and Annie helps to make the jam sandwiches. As they start eating, Annie rubs her arm. "Something is tickling me," she says. "Something is tickling me, too," says Adam, eating his apple. All of a sudden, Annie shouts, "A...a...a...a!" They all look at Annie and see some ants crawling up her arm. Everyone jumps up quickly. There are ants everywhere! "Oh dear," says Dad. "We must have put the blanket over an ants' nest." They pack up their things and move to a nicer spot.

Action: The children pretend that ants are crawling up their arm and say *a, a, a, a*.

Letter formation: Explain how the letter for /a/ is written. The children form the letter in the air and then practise writing <a> and <s> in their books. They write over the dotted letters and then try again, using the starting dots.

Blending: Say the sounds /s/ and /a/ with the children and encourage them to point to the dot under each sound in their books as they do so. Then do some auditory blending. Call out the sounds in a word and ask the class to blend them together and say the word. For example, say the sounds in *ant* – /a-n-t/ – and encourage the children to call out 'ant'.

Identifying the sounds: Look at the four pictures at the bottom of the lesson page. Say the word for each one with the class: *ant*, *arrow*, *sock*, *apple*. The children listen for the word that does not start with the sound /a/ and cross out its picture [*sock*].

Dictation: Call out the sounds /a/ and /s/ and ask the children to write the letter for each one.

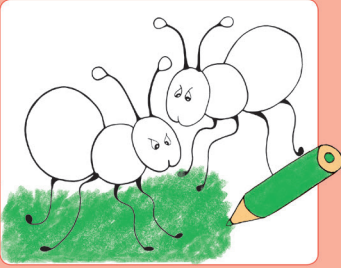
Developing accuracy and fluency: The children take home a sound book to read with their parents and bring back the next day.

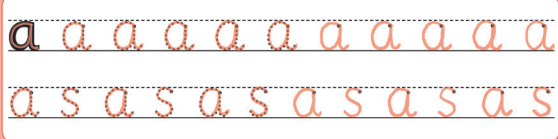
Answers

A a



ACTION
Wiggle your fingers up your arm as if ants are crawling on you, and say *a, a, a, a*!





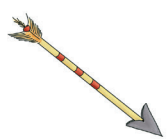
S

.

a

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Say the word for each picture. Three have an /a/ sound at the beginning. Cross out the one that does not.




3

Further ideas: Sing the /a/ song from Jolly Songs. Cut some apples in half and use them to print colourful shapes. Paint large letter <a>s cut out of paper or card and make mobiles or a collage. Pin up the /a/ section of the Wall Frieze.