

Letter Sound /e/

Flashcards: Revise the letter sounds already taught:
/s/, /a/, /t/, /i/, /p/, /n/, /c/, /k/.

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

Every summer, Eric and his family spend seven days at Ten Acre Farm. In the morning, everyone gets up early to watch the cows being milked. Then Eric likes to help with the chores. He fetches water from the well and gives it to the cows to drink. Then he feeds the hens and collects the eggs for breakfast. Back in the kitchen, he gives the eggs to Ellie, the farmer's wife. "How would you like your eggs today?" asks Ellie. "I'd like fried eggs," Eric replies. Ellie takes an egg and taps it gently on the side of the pan: "e, e, e." Then she cracks it open: "e!" Eric watches Ellie and pretends to crack open the eggs too, saying, "E...e...e...e...eggs!"

Action: The children pretend to crack open an egg. They tap with one hand saying e, e, e, and then mime opening the eggshell, saying e.

Letter formation: Explain how the letter for /e/ is written, pointing out that it is unusual because it does not start at or near the top of the letter, but halfway up. The children form the letter in the air and then practise writing <e>, <t>, <i>, <p>, <n>, <c> and <k> in their books. They write over the dotted letters and then try again, using the starting dots.

Blending: Blend the words on the lesson page with the class: *ten*, *pet*, *tent*, *neck*. The children point to the dot underneath each sound as they say it. Remind them that when two letters making the same sound are next to each other, you only say the sound once: /n-e-ck/, not /n-e-c-k/.

Identifying the sounds: Look at the four pictures at the bottom of the lesson page. Say the word for each one with the class. The children listen and write the letter for the first sound in each word [egg, statue, elbow, elephant].

Word bank: *net, pen, pet, set, ten, neck, peck, kept, nest, pest, sent, step, tent, test, speck, spent, tennis, insect, inspect; a pet cat.* Use the word bank regularly

Answers

E e

ACTION

Pretend to crack an egg against the side of a pan with one hand. Use both hands to open the shell, saying e, e, e, e.

e e e e e e e e e e e
t t i p p n n c c k k

ten

...

pet

...

tent

...

neck

...

Say the word for each picture and write the letter for the first sound. Three start with /e/, but one does not.

e

e

s

e

to practise blending. It can also be used to do auditory segmenting: Say a word and then sound it out with the class, holding up a finger for each sound.

Dictation: Dictate the letter sounds /e/, /c k/, /n/, /p/ and the words *net* and *pen*. Remind the children that the sound /c k/ can be written as a caterpillar /c/ or a kicking /k/. Afterwards, sound out each word for the children, writing the letters on the board so that they can check their work.

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

Further ideas: Sing the /e/ song from Jolly Songs. Draw pictures of animals that hatch from eggs. Plant cress or mustard seeds in empty eggshells. Pin up the /e/ section of the Wall Frieze.