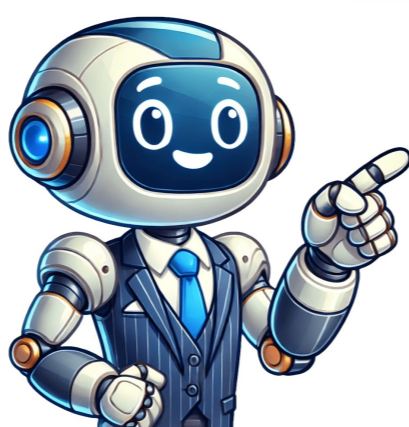


I'm not a bot















## Sound wall

On a sound wall, they are not misled by the letter ‘o’ but are instead led to finding the phoneme /w/, which can be represented by (in this case less-common) graphemes This is far more effective at teaching different spelling patterns.Finally, they fit into your phonics/spelling program and are an ongoing visual aide. Save Why You Should Switch To A Sound Wall to your favorite Pinterest board! Share Tweet Email Reddit It’s time to ditch word walls for sound walls. With your students, add familiar words using those spelling patterns for that sound under the card. How is the air flowing? If you prefer a ready-made set, Tools 4 Reading is an excellent option, but pricey. You can simply display consonants in the order they are learned, distinguishing between stops and continuants (acknowledging Schwa isn’t added onto the end of sounds – eg /p/uh).You can also use groupings such as Fricatives /f/, /th/, /s/, /sh/, /h/ and Affricates /ch/, /j/. You can plan to set up the wall with students as you teach sounds, or set up the entire display and cover sounds until you teach them. As kids become familiar with the most common spellings of each sound, you can introduce alternative spellings—for instance, the /c/ sound can be spelled with c, k, ck, or even ch as in “school.” You can add these below the primary spelling. It’s not useful if it’s not used! A sound wall uses sound groupings to organize the phonemes. This is really helpful for them to notice the slight differences in the phonemes, especially when working on vowel sounds. Every day, take a few minutes to quickly go through the sounds on the sound wall before introducing any new sounds, if doing so. They should be grouped together. Model for students how they can use the sound wall to help them decode and spell words. All the conversations happening about literacy learning and the science of reading definitely encourage teachers and schools to look carefully at their instructional practices—and, often, to explore new ones that help kids. The sounds you display may differ at times with different groups, but a sound wall is helpful for all ages. They are neighbors on the sound wall. They can look at themselves while saying the sounds in a word and match their mouth positions to the mouth pictures. Explicit instruction of phonemes is known to improve student reading outcomes. What is a sound wall? They are easily differentiated for younger and older students, and aid in explicit and systematic phonic instruction, orthographic mapping, spelling, and decoding, while also providing students with a working reference wall for reading and writing. Some sound wall kits come with lock images that are handy for this purpose. Matching speech to print is critical and a sound wall is one of the best ways to support this. The specific order doesn’t really matter, but you can use this as a guide. Repurpose materials you already have You don’t need to start from scratch—you can rearrange alphabet cards you already have! Source: @redlipsandapples Unlock sounds Add some motivational drama by “unlocking” sounds. It’s very important to correctly model the sounds. What is my tongue doing? One of these is the sound wall. Model these for your students to they can try to mimic you. Good sound walls also include mouth formation visuals so students can see what their lips, teeth, and tongue should be doing to make that sound. Students learn that one sound can be made using different graphemes, and it helps to teach spelling patterns. (Think, “Cheese!”) The short /o/ sound uses an open “o” mouth shape and represents the bottom of the valley. Because some sounds are very similar, it can be confusing for students to learn them in sequence. Words are sorted by the first letter of each word. Check out these fantastic resources to get you started using one in your classroom. For instance, when a student looks for the spelling of a word such as ‘one’, on a word wall, where do they look? It’s time to ditch word walls for sound walls. Depending on your class/student needs, you can include all or some of the sounds, include less common graphemes, and begin to move into morphology to provide enrichment for students who have mastered the 44 phonemes and graphemes.Sound wall pedagogy is not something you will perfect overnight. So put that sound wall to work! Teach kids what the speech-related terms mean. Source: @sweetfirststiefun Do you have a sound wall in your classroom? Put up the phoneme cards for the sounds they know, and list the different spelling patterns for that sound by the card. Learning how to use a sound wall, and teaching your students how to use them as a learning tool can have huge benefits for reading and writing in your classroom Sound walls should be used from K to upper primary. She explains each step of the sound wall, the sound types, and makes it all come together for anyone new to sound walls. A word wall is organized in alphabetical order. How to use a sound wall is really up to you and the needs of your class! If you are confused about sound walls, you should know that even the experts can’t agree on how many phonemes there are. The classic sound wall includes all of the phonemes:Wall #1 (see image below)This wall includes :Vowel valley – Long and Short Vowels /ē/, /ī, /ā, /e/, /a/, /ī, /o/, /u/, /aw/, /ō/, /oo/, /ōō/, /yū/ & Vowel Diphthongs /oi/, /ou/, Vowel Sounds Influenced by ‘R’ /ūr/, /a(r)/, /ā(r)/, /o(r)/, /o(r)/, SchwaThe mouth formations in vowel valley move left to right, from /ee/ to /ou/. This is often the case with short e and short i. Wall #2This wall includes the consonants and consonant digraphs:Stops Voiced /p/ /t/ /k/ Stops Voiced /b/ /d/ /g/ /j/ Continuants Unvoiced /f/ /s/ Continuants Voiced /v/ /z/ Glides /h/ /y/ /w/ Liquid /l/ /r/ /l/ /m/ /n/ Others /k/ /w/ /k/ /x/ Consonant Digraphs /th/ voiced and unvoiced, /ng/ /sh/ /ch/ /wh/ with breath /zh/ Yes! But the focus is always on the phonemes and graphemes. It’s best to display as you go. Instead of the traditional word wall, where words are displayed on a wall organized by their first letter, you display the different speech sounds using phoneme cards and organize words based on their sounds. In 2000, The National Reading Panel found that explicitly teaching phonemes was a critical component of effective reading and spelling instruction. Sound walls are based on the science of reading, and are an excellent way to explicitly teach phonemes. This is much cheaper than the Tools 4 Reading set. Are there 42 or 44? A sound wall should have two distinct sections, one for all the consonant sounds and one for the vowel sounds. You’ll need to add example words for each sound as well, so flashcards with a picture of the word are best for this. Want to remember this? One mistake many people often make is adding the schwa (the /uh/ sound) after a consonant. You can certainly make your own by printing out phoneme cards and laminating them. This means that instead of learning words from a word wall, students learn letter sounds and letter patterns, and transfer that knowledge to decoding and spelling other new words. A convenient spot for writing helps too! Source: @atomissz Add some high-frequency words If you loved having high-frequency words on a word wall, there’s no reason you can’t add some of them to a sound wall. The long /e/ sound uses a wide grin shape. A sound wall aims to help kids apply letter and sound knowledge to any applicable word. What is my voice doing? Special education teacher Mikayla Jorgenson’s sound wall: \*Most school spam filters block my emails, so please use a personal email. A sound wall also includes sounds represented by combinations of letters. Some phoneme card sets include the visuals of the mouth to help with this. Academics have even written entire papers trying to prove there are only 35 phonemes. As you introduce new sounds, you add those to your sound wall. 1. There are a few questions you want to ask about sounds when teaching them to your students: What are my lips doing? For instance, /p/ and /b/ use the same mouth position, though /p/ is unvoiced and /b/ is voiced. Differentiating the wall for your classroom is also important. A complete sound wall may be overwhelming for your class. A sound wall is organized by how sounds are produced. Once you have set up your sound wall, you can introduce new sounds explicitly. Often, a list of the different spellings for each sound is included under or next to the phoneme cards, and sometimes a word list is also included. Louisa Moats, the author of Speech To Print (which I highly recommend all reading teachers get a copy of), states that “without awareness of the speech sounds that letters represent, one cannot match letters to sounds and read unfamiliar words.” Sound walls can be introduced at any time, and the sooner the better! You introduce a sound wall using the sounds your students already know, even if it’s just a few. It is up to your own pedagogical approach whether you feel speech phonology terminology is useful in your classroom. We get imposter syndrome and worry that we will expose ourselves as not knowing enough.The key is to do your best, listen to advice from people you respect, continue to learn, and implement the things you learn in your classroom.Check out our range of Sound Walls and phonics resources here or in our TPT store. Add picture cues and alternative spellings of sounds. For example, T makes the sound /t/ but sometimes people add an /uh/ and say /tuh/. Tip: If you want to see a great free presentation on sound walls, I suggest Michelle Trostle’s Sound Walls 101. They are usually high-frequency words or other often-used words, like students’ names. When students are making a sound, go through these 5 questions. Tell us about it in the comments! Want more articles like this? Voiced sounds are the sounds made from the voice box. Example words may include those sounds in any position in the word. A sound wall is not a word wall. Implementing new tools can seem overwhelming at first, but the investment in student learning is always worth it.If you’re not sure how to use a sound wall, or how to get started with your sound wall, then we’re here to help! A sound wall is organized by sound, helping students to move from speech-print using phonemes (letter sounds), mouth formation(articulation), and recognition of common and uncommon graphemes (letter patterns).A sound wall will transform your reading instruction. Winter’s Bliss Arrange vowel sounds in a “valley” shape that reflects how the mouth opens to make each sound. Being playful with your wall, for example placing voiced and unvoiced sounds (/b/, /p/) next to each other for comparisons, can deepen your students’ understanding of phonemes. You can also provide them with a mini sound wall that they can have in their desk or notebook. Again, I refer back to the science of reading. It’s not because anyone is incorrect – it’s because the English language is incredibly complex and sounds are changed by dialects, pronunciation, and accents.Now, imagine trying to convince your colleagues there are only 35 phonemes. 2. How is a sound wall different from a word wall? This helps students remember that different spelling patterns make the same sound. Uncover them one by one as you teach them. Sound walls are also more easily used. The phonemes are often displayed in specific groups, but they don’t have to be. Source: @drcorteswrites 3. Sounds that are produced similarly are grouped together. Here are some more examples and possibilities to inspire you. They are highly effective, especially for struggling readers, and make a lot more sense than word walls. Students need to master phonemic awareness to become fluent readers. For younger students, pictures should also be used.Consonants and consonant digraphs can be grouped in different ways. Preparing the entire wall and then carefully storing by sound type all at once, is useful for being able to add sounds throughout the year.If you need to put up your entire wall (some of us NEED to do this LOL), cover up the sounds that haven’t been explicitly taught. unvoiced sounds do not vibrate the vocal cords. Also check out her blog post for more about laying out the space to support instruction. Shop my sound wall resources here. I also created my own sound wall and mini sound walls (pictured below), which you will need to print, laminate, and cut. Review the sounds every day and then model how to use the wall. Say the /s/ (unvoiced) and /z/ (voiced) sounds and you will notice the difference. Even older students can benefit from a review of phonemes and common and extended grapheme knowledge.Secondly, on a sound wall, words are grouped with sounds. I give my students a small mirror so they can see what their lips, teeth, and tongue are doing. \*Most school spam filters block my emails, so please use a personal email. How do you set up a sound wall? When using a sound wall, it is actually better to have two distinct walls for vowels and consonants. Winter’s Bliss For a full run-down on the articulation of the 44 phonemes in the English language, and tips for introducing them to kids, check out this training from literacy specialist Mary Dahlgren around the 39-minute mark. A sound wall is a place where the different speech sounds (phonemes) are displayed. Do we include vowel digraphs in the final number or not? These two resources are different because: To use a word wall, one must be able to read the words, so kids often need teacher help. That said, when beginning to use a sound wall some basic principles apply: Introduce one phoneme at a time Explicitly teach each sound.Don’t introduce similar sounds at the same time.Introduce the most common letter or grapheme that represents that sound first, but aim to display as many as is age-appropriate Display mouth formation images for each sound. There are 19 vowel sounds, and they are usually represented in a V shape to mimic the motion of your chin as you make these sounds. Although the overall sequence for teaching all the phonemes doesn’t really matter, this is the one thing you want to keep in mind when planning out the sequence you’ll be teaching. Source:@mrplynnprincipal Add user-friendly touches Encourage kids to use your sound wall for spelling help by adding mirrors. Displaying just Vowel Valley, or the week’s focus sound, and one or two previous sounds can work for one class. After all, you can teach students ten words and they will know ten words. Arrange consonant sounds based on how we articulate them, from the front of the mouth to the back of the throat. Source: Mrs. Picture cues with example words for each sound are super-helpful, as are photos of kids’ mouths producing each sound. Fricatives – lots of vibration and ‘skinny air’ Unvoiced: /f/, /th/ (thumb), /s/, /sh/, /h/ Voiced: /v/, /th/ (this), /z/, /zh/ (treasure) Affricates – in between a fricative and stop Unvoiced: /ch/ Voiced: /j/ Glides – very airy Unvoiced: /wh/ (more common in British English) Voiced: /w/, /y/ Liquids – feel like they fill your mouth up /l/, /r/ These attach to vowels and alter them, so try not to use them when segmenting. A word wall helps kids learn individual words. Map out your space. The key is not to introduce multiple sounds at once. It’s very important we’re not adding that /uh/ sound when teaching phonemes. It includes consonant sounds and vowel sounds and the various ways to spell each sound. This student resource shows the 44 phonemes (soundings) in the English language. Normally they start with the letter ‘W’. Don’t put up a full sound wall with all the sounds at the beginning of the school year! As you introduce new sounds and spelling patterns, add words next to or below the phoneme card. Even the experts can’t agree on the categorization of sounds, so being confused about how sounds are represented, how words are segmented and blended, and the ‘best way’ to use a sound wall is normal. What are my teeth doing? Mrs. Benefits of a sound wall include: explicit instruction of phonemes builds orthographic mapping provides consistent review of sounds provides a visual reference for students in the classroom improves spelling improves decoding Grouping words by their sounds instead of letters is more effective at teaching reading and spelling. MODEL HOW TO USE A SOUND WALL by planning sound wall activities. If you teach students ten sounds, they will be able to spell many, many words!Words displayed on a sound wall should have graphemes highlighted, and sit under their phoneme. It helps kids progress from what they can do—say sounds—to what they are learning to do—spell and read words that include those sounds. Be sure to subscribe to our newsletters. They are not meant to have every word a child needs to spell – rather, the goal is the transfer of letter-sound knowledge and retrieval of taught phonemes/graphemes. There is a consonant sound wall and a vowel sound wall, sometimes called a ‘vowel valley’ . Winter’s Bliss has a helpful step-by-step primer. There are voiced and unvoiced consonant sounds, and then you also have vowel sounds. A sound wall encourages independent use. Use it for teaching! A common complaint about classroom word walls is that it’s easy for them to become part of the classroom wallpaper. More sound wall inspiration and tips A sound wall can be daunting to set up, especially if this way of thinking about and teaching sounds is new to you. Develop routines for teaching about each individual sound, or work it into your existing phonological awareness and phonics programs. Source: @lappslibrary Make it desk-sized Personal resources can be invaluable for some kiddos. If your class is requesting how to spell sounds that aren’t on display, consider if you need to add more to your wall, while highlighting the sounds you have explicitly taught. Stops – puff of air comes out of your mouth when making these sounds Unvoiced: /p/, /t/, /k/ Voiced: /b/, /d/, /g/ Nasals – you feel these vibrate inside your nose /m/, /n/, /ng/ It’s recommended to keep nasal sounds out when segmenting words because of how it changes the vowel sound, making it a more nasal sound. Save Why You Should Switch To A Sound Wall to your favorite Pinterest board! Share Tweet Email Reddit You’ve probably heard about sound walls in the classroom through colleagues or social media – maybe you’ve been asked to implement a sound wall in your classroom. The thought would probably fill you with dread – and this is how we can feel when trying to implement new things. Sound walls can be used in primary grades and with older students. Focus on helping kids connect the sounds in the words to the letters that represent them. This is better represented in an image so reference the Vowel Valley charts above and below to see the sounds. Our handy sound wall resources will help you to know how to use a sound wall that suits your classroom!

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