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Words with long u sound Email Facebook X Learn all about the Long U sound, including the 2 sounds long U can make. Then, grab yourself two printable pdf lists with over 215 long U vowel sound & Print" section below! In our previous long vowel posts, we've consistently said that the rule for long vowels is: long vowels say their name: Long a says /ā/ like acorn. Long e says /ē/ like equal. Long i says /ī/ like ice. Long o says /ō/ like ocean. Long u says /yoo/ like unicorn, OR /oo/ like ruler. You'll probably notice something a little different! Long U makes TWO sounds! Learn about the 12 ways to spell the two Long U sounds, and at the bottom of this post find two printable pdf lists, organized by sounds and spelling patterns. Our FREE printable lists are sorted by spelling pattern. Get it below! Let's discuss the first sound of long U, where we hear the U saying its name - ū or /yoo/. There are five ways to spell long U: u like unicorn\* u-e like mute\* ew like curfew\* ue like argue\* eu like a word like u/ni/corn OR in the middle of a word like du/ty. English words do not end in the letter U, so we will rarely see an open syllable U at the end of a word unless it is derived from another language (e.g. menu comes from French). unicornfuelhumorevaluateemuusualunitmenugenuinefutileunitedunionuniqueUkrainehumanehumanunityUtahunisonmutatemusicuniformmuseumcomputerpunyHugohumidbugleannualpupilusuallyconfusionmanualDraculacupidfutureCubacubicmutual The u-consonant-e pattern is another way to spell long ū. In this silent E spelling, the ū sound will be in the middle of the word. The E at the end will stay silent, making the U says it's name. mutecutedisputecommutehugeamusefumecomputevolumeperfumeacutedefuseexcusecubeimmunediffusemoleculefuseexcusecubeimmunediffuseexcusecubeimmunediffuseexcusecubeimmunediffuseexcusecubeimmunediffuseexcusecub at the end of base words like the ones listed below, curfewMatthewpewterhewfewreviewnephewpew In this vowel team, the U+E join together to make the long U sound. It it used at the end of a base word after the letter g or g (like vague, morgue, unique, etc). EU is a vowel team used within the baseword, usually at the beginning or in the middle. eucalyptus Eugeneeugeniceuphemistfeud Euphrateseulogyeuphoria Download the FREE printable word lists below! The second sound of long u sound is clearly different from the first sound because the /y/ part of the long U sound /yoo/ is lost, resulting in the /oo/ sound. The reason for this? It's difficult to pronounce the /y/ sound after many consonants, especially L and R. There are seven ways to spell long U: u like ruler\* u-e like tube\* ew like stew\* ue like glue\* oo like balloon ou like soup ui like fruit | | Although there are many different long vowel spellings, I focus my instruction heavily on the ones we find most frequently in text, marked with an asterisk (\*) above. Below you'll find each of the seven ways to spell long U along with many common words where the /oo/ sound is clearly heard. In all 30 words listed below, one of the syllables is open and ends in the letter U. One can clearly hear the /oo/ sound within the word at the end of the open syllable. rulerSusannutrientsuperJupiterdutygradualsolutionactualinfluencerubystupidPerulunaraluminumLucysituationstudentrubricfrugaltunarevolutionFebruarytrulystudiousualpollutionruintulipsolution [] Many Magic E words include the U-E pattern and and make the long /oo/ sound. Remember, students should try both sounds /voo/ and /oo/ when reading these words to listen for which one sounds right. These words have lost the /y/ sound of long U, and the resulting sound is /oo/. tubetunespruceabsolutesaluterulemulechuteintroduceNeptunefluteBrucedudeschedulealtituderudedukeincludeattitudegratitudeduneLuketrucecostumeparachuteJunecrudeproducereducesubstitute This vowel team appears at the end of a base word and says the /oo/ sound in the words below. stewflewblewAndrewinterviewnewdrewbrewjewelssewageknewthrewchewyHebrewrenewgrewcrewmildewscrew This vowel team is used only at the end of of base words like glue. Most words ending in UE will have the /oo/ sound, like those found below. gluetruecluestatueavenueblueSueduetissueissue [] Teaching Tip: Do not move on to teaching the next 3 spelling patterns until your students have demonstrated a strong command of the four most frequent spellings of long U. These two vowels create the special English vowel sound /oo/ heard in the words below. This team can be used in the middle and at the end of words. balloonzoofoolsoonchoosepoolnoontoomoontoolsmoothshootschoolcoolboottoothroomroof \*OO can also make the short sound heard in words like book, hood, or soot. OU is not technically a long U vowel sound, just like the other six spelling patterns found in this section. The vowel team is often found in the middle of base words like soup, but it can also be found at the end like you. Many of these words in English that include this vowel team. UI is found within the base word in words fruitsuitbruiselawsuitjuicecruisesuitcasepursuit What are the two sounds that long U can say? Long U says /yoo/ like unicorn, OR it says /oo/ like ruler. Should I teach both long u sounds at the same time? There is no need to teach all the sounds of long U at once. Pick and choose words from these lists and use them as your students progress through an aligned scope and sequence. Here is a sample scope and sequence if you are needing one to follow. Why are some long u spellings on both lists? Notice that U (open syllable), U-E (Magic E) UE, and EW appear on BOTH lists and can say /yoo/ OR /oo/. You'll need to teach kids to try both sounds when reading new words (e.g. the word music - mū/sic OR moo/sic). Long A Words List Long E Words List Long I Words List Long O Words List We'd love to hear about your experience with these word lists!Please leave a comment below or tag us on Instagram @literacylearn. DOWNLOAD TERMS: All of our resources and printables are designed for personal use only in homes and classrooms. Each teacher must download his or her own copy. You may not: Save our files to a shared drive, reproduce our resources on the web, or make photocopies for anyone besides your own students. To share with others, please use the social share links provided or distribute the link to the blog post so others can download their own copies. Your support in this allows us to keep making free resources for everyone! Please see our Creative Credits page for information about the licensed clipart we use. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our terms, please email us. Thank you! - Get MORE Freebies: 5 Long U Worksheets. Email Facebook X Learn all about the Long U sound, including the 2 sounds long U can make. Then, grab yourself two printable pdf lists with over 215 long U vowel sound words, organized by sound and spelling pattern. Get a new freebie every week! Download the FREE printable lists in the "Download & Print" section below! In our previous long vowel posts, we've consistently said that the rule for long vowels is: long vowels say their name: Long a says /ā/ like acorn. Long e says /ē/ like equal. Long i says /i/ like ice. Long o says /o/ like ocean. Long u says /yoo/ like unicorn, OR /oo/ like ruler. You'll probably notice something a little different! Long U makes TWO sounds! 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You'll need to teach kids to try both sounds when reading new words (e.g. the word music - mū/sic OR moo/sic). Long A Words List Long E Words List Long E Words List Long O Words List We'd love to hear about your experience with these word lists! Please leave a comment below or tag us on Instagram @literacylearn. DOWNLOAD TERMS: All of our resources and printables are designed for personal use only in homes and classrooms. Each teacher must download his or her own copy. You may not: Save our files to a shared drive, reproduce our resources on the web, or make photocopies for anyone besides your own students. To share with others, please use the social share links provided or distribute the link to the blog post so others can download their own copies. Your support in this allows us to keep making free resources for everyone! Please see our Creative Credits page for information about the licensed clipart we use. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our terms, please email us. Thank you! - Get MORE Freebies: 5 Long U Worksheets. Make learning the long u sound (/ū/) easier with these word lists, activities, and teaching tips for kids. Learning the long u sound can be a tricky part of learning phonics because it stands for two different sounds: "yoo" as in unicorn and "oo" as in ruler. Understanding these differences is an important step in helping your child grow as a reader and speller. Since the long u sound appears in many everyday words, learning how to spot and say it can give your child a stronger foundation in phonics and make reading and writing easier and more fun! In phonics, the long u sound is written as /u/. (VCe) patterns. Examples: unicorn, unite, music, future, human /oo/: A smoother, shorter sound without the initial /y/ glide, which occurs in words where u follows certain consonants or when pronunciation is simplified for fluency. Examples: ruler, flute, moon, truth Understanding these two variations helps children recognize and use the long u sound in different words and contexts. Consonant Influence & Ease of Pronunciation: When the letter u comes after certain consonants, like r or l, the "yoo" sound becomes harder to pronounce. Instead, it's simplified to "oo." For example, it's easier to say ruler as "roo-ler" instead of "ryoo-ler." But when u starts a syllable or a word, the "yoo" sound is usually kept, like in unite or music. Understanding these eight patterns can help learners recognize and decode long u words. As your child practices, they'll start to notice these patterns on their own. Encouraging them to say the words out loud and listen for the sound of the u can make learning even more engaging. The more they practice, they easier it will become to apply these patterns in everyday reading. U-Consonant-silent -e (VCe) The vowel-consonant-silent -e (VCe) pattern creates a long vowel sound. For u, this pattern most often results in the /yoo/ sound, but it can also produce the /oo/ sound in certain cases. Examples (/oo/): flute, June, rule, tune, crude Examples (/yoo/): mute, cube, acute, commute, excuse -ue Vowel TeamThe vowel team -ue produces the long u sound, often at the end of base words. This pattern can result in either the /yoo/ or /oo/ sound, depending on the word. Examples (/yoo/): rescue, argue, continue, cue Examples (/yoo/): blue, glue, true, statue, avenue -ew Vowel Team The vowel team -ew often appears at the end of words and can produce both long u sounds. Examples (/yoo/): stew, new, interview Examples (/yoo/): stew, flew, grew, chew, brew -eu Vowel TeamThe vowel team -eu produces the /yoo/ sound and is typically found at the beginning of words or within words rather than at the end. This pattern is less common than others and often appears in words derived from Greek or Latin. Examples: eucalyptus, feud -oo Vowel TeamWhile -ou is not traditionally categorized as a long u spelling, it produces the same /oo/ sound in many words and occasionally produces the /yoo/ sound. Examples: soup, group, route, youth, routine, coupon -ui Vowel TeamThe vowel team -ui produces the /oo/ sound and is relatively rare in English, occurring mostly in short base words. Examples: fruit, suit, juice, cruise, pursuit, bruise Open SyllablesAn open syllable ends with a vowel, allowing the vowel to "say its name." When u is the final letter of an open syllable, it often produces the /yoo/ sound. Examples: mu-sic, hu-man, u-nite, men-u, pu-pil These lists include a mix of simple and more advanced words, making them suitable for learners at various levels. The vowel-consonant-silent -e (VCe) pattern creates a long vowel sound. For u, this pattern most often results in the /yoo/ sound, but it can also produce the /oo/ sound in certain cases. acute amuse attribute commute commute compute cube cute excuse fuse immune mute refuse tribute use volume Teaching Tip:Explain the role of the "magic E" as a silent letter that changes the preceding vowel into a long sound. Use visual aids, such as color-coding the vowels and the silent E, to reinforce the concept. absolute attitude attitude chute crude flute include June neptune parachute prune rule salute truce tune These words feature the long u sound created by the vowel team -ue. argue barbecue continue cue imbue issue miscue rescue statue tissue value venue Teaching Tip: Use word families to help teach this pattern (blue, clue, true). Encourage students to try both sounds (/yoo/ and /oo/) when decoding new words. The vowel team -ew often appears at the end of a word. Practice sorting exercises to help students differentiate between /yoo/ and /oo/ pronunciations. renew screw stew threw withdrew The vowel team -eu produces the /yoo/ sound and is typically found at the beginning of words or within words rather than at the end. Teaching Tip: Introduce this pattern alongside vocabulary enrichment, as many eu words are advanced and associated with academic language. The letter team -oo is another way to spell the /oo/ sound. aloof bamboo bloom boom boot boost broom cartoon cool goo goofy goose hoop igloo loop mood moon moose noon oops ooze proof roof scoop shoot soon stoop too zoo While -ou is not traditionally categorized as a long u spelling, it produces the same /oo/ sound in many words. acoustic goulash group mousse The vowel team -ui produces the /oo/ sound and is relatively rare in English, occurring mostly in short base words. Open syllables occur when a vowel is left at the end of a syllable, causing it to produce a long vowel sound. The following list includes both words with an open syllable where the vowel u produces the /yoo/ sound and the /oo/ sound in the words. annual - an nu al bugle - bu gle computer - com pu ter confusion - con fu sion cuba - Cu ba cubic - cu bic cupid - cu bic c - fu·tile future - fu·ture genuine - gen·u·ine human - hu·man humid - hu·man humid - hu·man humid - man·u·al museum - mu·tu·al puny - pu·ny pupil - pu·pil Ukraine - U·kraine unicorn - u·ni·corn uniform - u·ni·corn uniform - u·ni·corn unique - u·ni·que unit - u·ni·t unison - u·ni·son united - u·nit·ed unity - u·nit·ed unity - u·ni·ty usual - u·su·al·ly Teaching Tip: Emphasize syllable ends with u, making it long. Using long u words in sentences helps children understand how these words function in context and reinforces the distinction between the /yoo/ and /oo/ sounds. Below are example sentences for both pronunciations: unicorn: The magical unicorn galloped across the rainbow. music: We listened to soft music while doing our homework. cube: She placed an ice cube in her drink to keep it cold. rescue: The firefighters worked quickly to rescue the kitten from the tree. mute: Please mute your microphone during the online class. argue: They sometimes argue about who gets to pick the movie. continue: The teacher asked the student to continue reading the story. flute: She practiced her flute every evening to prepare for the concert. June: We are planning a big family picnic in June. blue: The sky was so blue it looked like a painting. glue: Use the glue to stick the paper pieces together. soup: The hot soup warmed us up on the chilly evening. school: The ship's crew worked hard to sail through the storm. Our free printable Long Vowel Sounds Worksheets can help your child practice their understanding of long vowels through fun coloring pages and crossword puzzles. Objective: Help children identify long u words while engaging in a playful scavenger hunt. Materials Needed: Index cards with long u words (cube, blue, flute, music, rescue) Small treasures or treats to "hide" along with the cards, such as stickers, small toys, or snacks Steps: Hide the index cards and treasures around the house or yard. Give your child a list of long u words and explain that their mission is to find all the hidden words. As they find a card, ask them to say the word aloud and identify whether it has the /yoo/ or /oo/ sound. Reward them with the treasure for finding and pronouncing each word correctly. Objective: Reinforce long u spelling patterns through physical activity. Materials Needed: Sidewalk chalk (for outdoor play) or masking tape (for indoor play) A list of long u word in each square. Call out a word and ask your child to hop to the corresponding square. When they land on the word, have them spell it aloud and say its sound (/yoo/ or /oo/). For an extra challenge, let them think of a sentence using the word before moving on. Objective: Help children visualize long u words while practicing creativity. Materials Needed: Magazines, newspapers, or printouts Glue, scissors, and a large piece of paper Steps: Have your child search for pictures or words that represent long u words (a flute, a cube, or something blue). Cut out the images and glue them onto the paper to create a colorful collage. Label each picture with the corresponding long u word. Review the words together, emphasizing the /voo/ or /oo/ sound. Objective: Teach children to recognize and categorize long u words by sound. Materials Needed: Flashcards with long u words Two containers or baskets labeled "/yoo/" and "/oo/" Steps: Write long u words on flashcards and mix them up. Show each word to your child and ask them to read it aloud. Have them decide if the word makes the /yoo/ or /oo/ sound and place it in the correct container. Review the sorted words together to reinforce learning. Objective: Teach children how the silent -e changes short u words into long u words. Materials Needed: Letter tiles or magnetic letters A whiteboard or flat surface for arranging letters Steps: Start with a short u word, such as cub, and have your child read it aloud. Add the letter e to the end to make a new word (cube). Explain how the silent -e changes the u to a long u sound. Repeat the process with other words (tub  $\rightarrow$  tube, cut  $\rightarrow$  cute). Discover 13 fun Thanksgiving crafts and activities to keep kids entertained, from printable jokes and riddles to festive Bingo cards, coloring pages, and hands-on crafts like...Read More Looking for a fun way to entertain the family this Thanksgiving? Check out these 50 silly and tricky Thanksgiving riddles that kids and adults will enjoy!...Read More Enjoy over 100 Thanksgiving jokes for kids, including turkey jokes, food puns, and knock-knock humor. Perfect for family gatherings, these printable jokes will keep the fun...Read More Expand your child's vocabulary with free printable Thanksgiving word lists! Explore seasonal words, thankful terms, A-Z lists, and fun holiday activities. Read More Explore over 20 fall leaf coloring pages designed for kids, featuring single leaves, fall scenes, and cutting practice. Ideal for classroom or home activities, these pages...Read More Let these Thanksgiving Activities and Worksheets brighten up your holiday fun. With printable greeting cards as well as some reading and math worksheet fun from ABCmouse...Read More Next Email Facebook X Learn all about the Long U sound, including the 2 sounds long U can make. Then, grab yourself two printable pdf lists with over 215 long U vowel sound words, organized by sound and spelling pattern. Get a new freebie every week! | Download the FREE printable lists in the "Download & Print" section below! In our previous long vowel say /ā/ like acorn. Long e says /ā/ like acorn. Long e says /ā/ like equal. Long i says /ī/ like ice. Long o says /o/ like ocean. Long u says /vo/ like unicorn. OR /oo/ like unicorn. spelling pattern. Get it below! Let's discuss the first sound of long U, where we hear the U saying its name - ū or /yoo/. There are five ways to spell long U: u like unicorn\* u-e like mute\* ew like curfew\* ue like argue\* eu like unicorn\* u-e like mute\* ew like curfew\* ue like argue\* eu lik above. The letter U will be long in a syllable that ends with the letter U. We call syllables that end in a vowel open syllable until the letter U, so we will rarely see an open syllable U at the end of a word unless it is derived from another language (e.g., menu comes from French), unicornfuelhumorevaluateemuusualunitmenugenuinefutileunitedunionuniqueUkrainehumanehumanunityUtahunisonmutatemusicuniformmuseumcomputerpunyHugohumidbugleannualpraculacupidfutureCubacubicmutual The u-consonant-e pattern is another way to spell long  $\bar{u}$ . In this silent E spelling, the  $\bar{u}$  sound will be in the middle of the word. The E at the end will stay silent, making the U says it's name. mutecutedisputecommutehugeamusefumeacutedefuseexcusecubeimmunediffusemoleculefuseexcusecubeimmunediffuseexcusecubeimmune considered a vowel in this team. Vowel team EW is used at the end of base words like the ones listed below, curfewMatthewpewterhewfewreviewnephewpew In this vowel team, the U+E join together to make the long U sound. 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These words have lost the /y/ sound of long U, and the resulting sound is /oo/. tubetunespruceabsolutesaluterulemulechuteintroduceNeptunefluteBrucedudeschedulealtituderudedukeincludeattitudegratitudeduneLuketrucecostumeparachuteJunecrudeproducereducesubstitute This vowel team appears at the end of a base word and says the /oo/ sound in the words below. 

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