

## How to spell the long vowel sound /ā/: a-e, ai, ay

**REMEMBER:** Long vowels say their name

### Rules

- In some words of more than one syllable you just need the letter **a**  
e.g. **a**pron   **a**lien   **a**gent   **a**sic
- Sometimes you need to add another letter
  - **a-e** as in **snake**  
Add **e** at the end of the word. Many words use **a-e** to spell the long /ā/ sound.  
e.g. **a**le, **brake**, **a**le, **pale**
  - **ai** as in **train**  
'ai' goes in the middle of the word  
e.g. **pa**in, **cha**in, **pa**id, **a**fra**id**
  - **ay** as in **bay**  
'ay' goes at the end of a word  
e.g. **da**y, **pla**y, **sta**y, **ha**y

### RULE BREAKERS

Grey, prey, they, obey, convey, survey

## ACTIVITIES

## Activity 1

Students keep all the cards on a pile face down. They take cards one by one, look at the word on a card, trace the 'a', 'ai' or 'ay' letters with their finger giving their names. Then they say the sound they give and read the word. Finally they place the card under the right category.

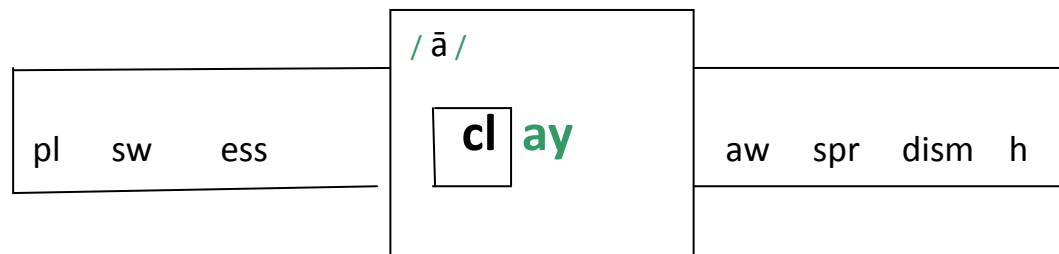
Cards ✂	Cards ✂	Cards ✂	Cards ✂	Cards ✂
/ā/ <b>behave</b>	/ā/ <b>relay</b>	/ā/ <b>train</b>	/ā/ <b>sway</b>	/ā/ <b>data</b>
/ā/ <b>obtain</b>	/ā/ <b>calculate</b>	/ā/ <b>amaze</b>	/ā/ <b>basic</b>	/ā/ <b>contain</b>
/ā/ <b>gate</b>	/ā/ <b>spray</b>	/ā/ <b>fatal</b>	/ā/ <b>plate</b>	/ā/ <b>waist</b>

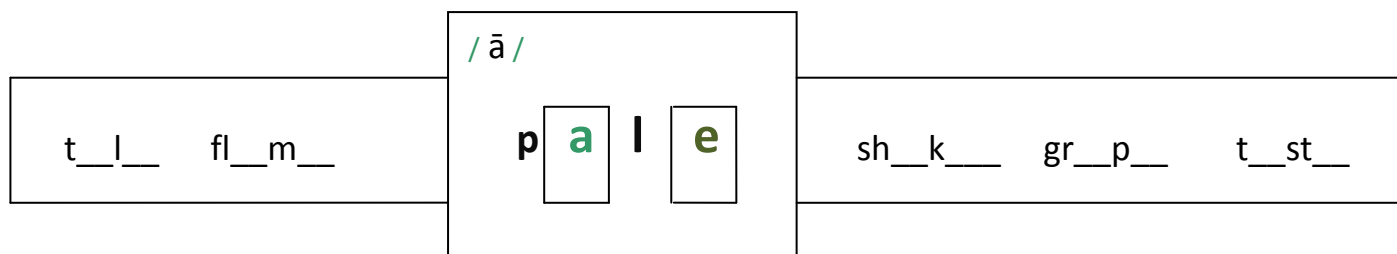
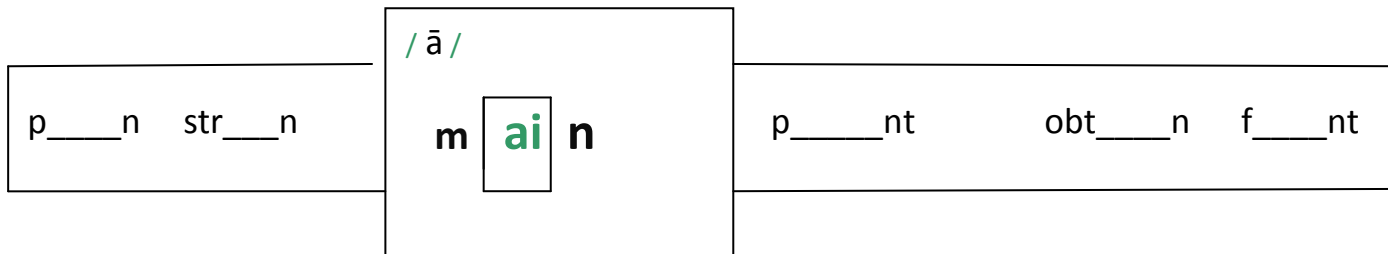
/ā/	/ā/	/ā/	/ā/	/ā/
<b>they</b>	<b>escape</b>	<b>essay</b>	<b>betray</b>	<b>maintain</b>
/ā/	/ā/	/ā/	/ā/	/ā/
<b>agent</b>	<b>convey</b>	<b>fame</b>	<b>survey</b>	<b>apron</b>
/ā/	/ā/	/ā/	/ā/	/ā/
<b>stain</b>	<b>female</b>	<b>agent</b>	<b>hesitate</b>	<b>strain</b>
/ā/	/ā/	/ā/	/ā/	/ā/
<b>portray</b>	<b>stale</b>	<b>brave</b>	<b>clay</b>	<b>display</b>
/ā/	/ā/	/ā/	/ā/	/ā/

<b>explain</b>	<b>male</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>rain</b>	<b>fatal</b>
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## Activity 2

Students use the slides to manipulate letters to form words. They read the words aloud and write them down under the appropriate heading in the chart.

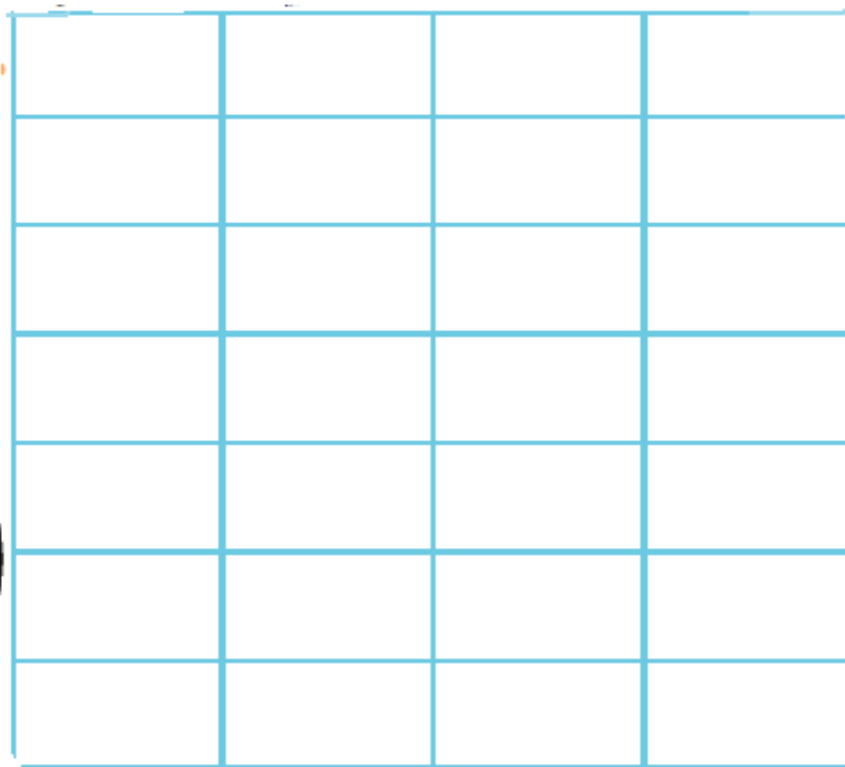
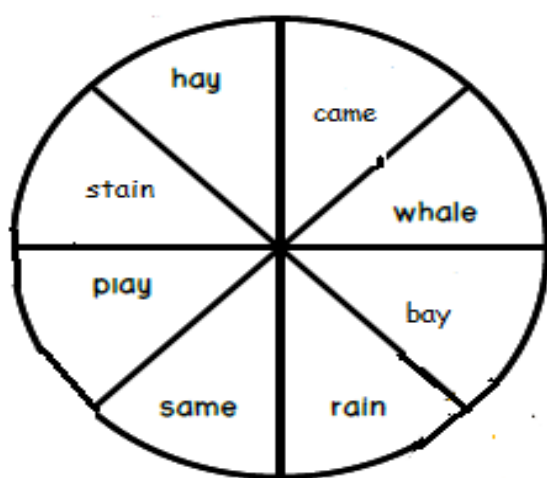




/ ā / sound		
'a-e'	'-ay'	'-ai-'

### Activity 3 : Game

To play the game, students will need 2 different colored markers. They will also need a spinner. To make a spinner use a paper clip and either a pencil or chopstick. The students take turns to spin a word, read the word and then write it on the grid. The winner is the first player to get 4 words in a row in any direction.





### Activity 4

The words on the cards contain the /ā/sound spelled with the letters 'ay' or 'ai' but these letters are not printed in the words. They are provided on separate little cards. Spelling choices are color coded : 'ay' in green and 'ai' in blue. Stick the cards with the letters 'ay' or 'ai' to the words as quickly as you can.

p <input type="text"/> d	f <input type="text"/> l
b <input type="text"/>	w <input type="text"/> st
w <input type="text"/>	p <input type="text"/> n

expl <input type="text"/> n	betr <input type="text"/>
afr <input type="text"/> d	rem <input type="text"/> n
det <input type="text"/> l	displ <input type="text"/>

ai	ai	ai	ai
ai	ai	ai	ai
ay	ay	ay	ay
ay	ay	ay	ay

To begin with the rules are given in an explicit, direct way and examples are provided in order to be better understood. The activities that follow for practice are very interesting and motivating. There is a scaled difficulty. There is also a variety, which demands the development of different skills needed to complete them successfully.

Furthermore, I especially like the game being embodied; This way we can have fun by learning material that is difficult and could become boring otherwise.