

for educators & learners: introduction to

phonicspelling

EVERYTHING to Know (Now) about Teaching & Learning

American-English Phonics & Spelling

Language Learning Levels & Skills = Pre-Literate to Beginning Reading & Writing;
Beginning to Advanced Spelling & Vocabulary

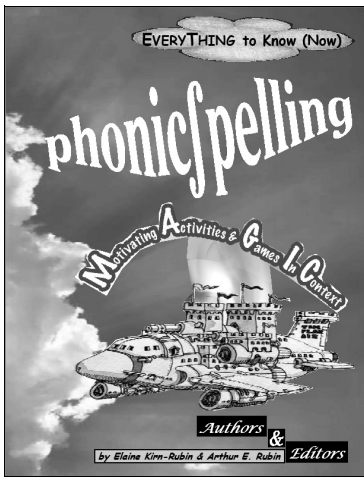
Phonics is a method for teaching speakers of English to read and write the language. It encourages learners to correlate (associate) the 40 or more sounds of *spoken* American-English with the 26 *written* letters of the alphabet. When “decoding” an unfamiliar word with the phonics method, new readers try to put the sounds of the letters together to produce its approximate pronunciation. Conversely, when they attempt to *spell* a new item from its sounds, they choose the letters or letter sequences most likely to result in correct—or at least recognizable—orthography.

Though not without controversy in elementary education, the *phonics approach* has almost always proven beneficial in the development of reading and writing fluency. Both native speakers of English and speakers of other languages, most of which include a nearly one-to-one correspondence between letters and sounds, express frustration with the *sound/spelling system* of English. Despite its complexity, however, there *are* useful phonics and spelling *patterns and rules*. Everybody learning and using English can profit from an understanding of the *system*—not only children preparing to read but also adult new readers, learners of English as a second or new language, and anyone that needs to read and write. With effective help, everyone can learn to:

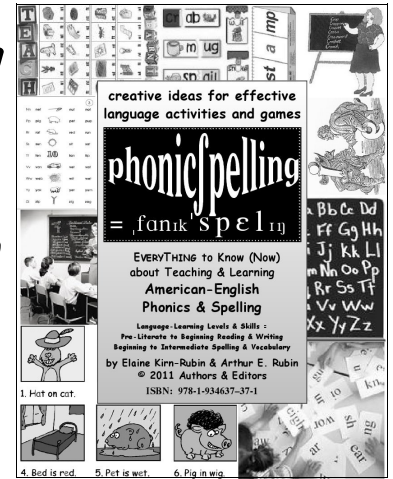
- differentiate between letter names and sounds in phonics or pronunciation instruction
 - recognize familiar vocabulary in print without having to memorize its spelling
- “sound out” new items with regular spellings; check their pronunciation in a dictionary
- make “educated guesses” at the spelling of words they hear and can repeat clearly
 - notice the exceptional spellings of words they’ll need to “sight read” or memorize
 - use knowledge of phonics and spelling to facilitate language learning in general

Following are suggestions for effective language activities and games designed to teach or learn English phonics and spelling. Most require little or no preparation or correction.

At skills levels ranging from pre-literate to advanced, all the ideas can add variety, motivation, cooperation, and/or competition to the language classroom, tutoring situation, learning group, and/or individual study. Though the *wording* of the instructions is directed at educators and facilitators, learners will be able to follow many of the steps on their own. In fact, teaching can become learning—and learning, teaching—not only in phonics/spelling but in many aspects of language acquisition and improvement.



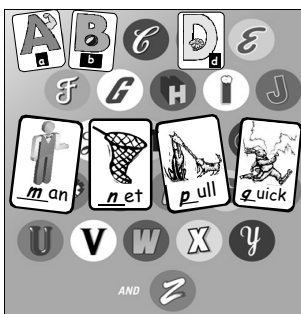
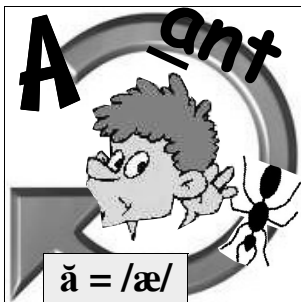
EVERYTHING to Know (Now) about Teaching & Learning American-English Phonics & Spelling



[creative ideas for effective language activities and games]

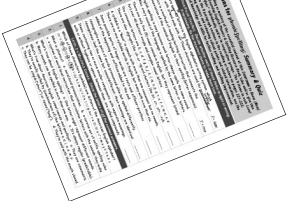
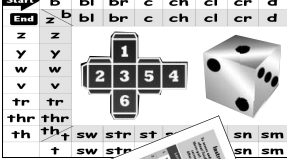
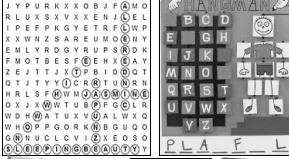
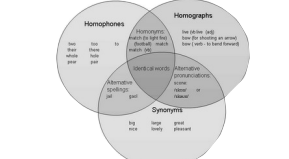
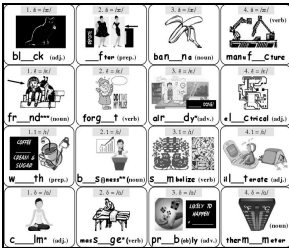
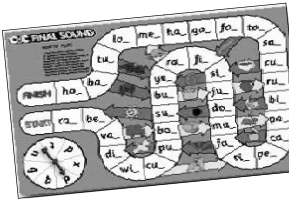
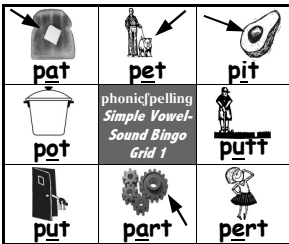
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**Authors
& Editors**



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ă or /æ/ or ǒ or /ɑ/
 or ā or /eɪ/ or ô or /
 ɔ/ or ä or /a:/ or ...
 = AaĀā



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