

What's in the *Basic / Beginning Levels of phonicspelling Initial-Consonants Word/Picture Card Decks?*

124 WORD/PICTURE CARDS: The *Basic Level* phonicspelling *Initial Consonants Word/Picture Card Deck* contains thirteen sets of "four matches"—52 very common, very useful vocabulary items beginning with the letters b, c (pronounced k), d, f, g, h, l, m, p, r, s, t, and w.

The 72 *Beginning Level* items include 13 sets of 4 different words with these same initial letters and sounds—and 20 additional word/picture cards consisting of 5 sets of 4 items each starting with ch, j, k, n, or sh).

MOST SOUNDS OF THE LANGUAGE: The four or eight words in each matching set of *Basic / Beginning* phonicspelling *Initial Consonants Cards* are all spelled with the same initial letter(s) and said with the same (single) initial consonant sound—covering 18 of the 24 English consonants.

All items have the one-syllable *CVC* (consonant-vowel-consonant) phonics pattern. They contain the most common, predictable spellings of all 16 major vowel sounds: ă ĕ ĭ ō ö; ā ē ī ō ū; au oi; ô, ä(r), ö, û(r)—those most teachable at basic phonics-instruction levels. Most end with one or two consonant letters, which spell one or two sounds—nearly all possible single final-consonant endings and a few common final consonant clusters.

ILLUSTRATED VOCABULARY IN FOUR CATEGORIES:

In each set of four is one word naming a person or an animal, one for a place, one for a thing, and one for an action or activity. These four vocabulary categories are the most productive ones at *Basic / Beginning Learning Levels*.





The items in the first three classifications are *nouns*, including a few capitalized *proper names*; those in the last are *verbs*. At the top of each card is the meaning category of its item. Next comes a phonetic symbol for its initial consonant sound. A picture of a meaning of each word fills the card middle. The word itself is at the bottom, with its initial consonant letter(s) underlined.



UNIQUE CARD FACES: Among the 124 (31 x 4) card-face images of the *Basic* and *Beginning* phonicspelling *Initial Consonants Word/Picture Cards*, there are no duplicates. However, different items beginning with 13 letters—b, c (pronounced k), d, f, g, h, l, m, p, r, s, t, w—appear in two sets of four, one in the *Basic 52-Card Deck* and the other in the *Beginning 72-Card Pack*, which also contains sets of words beginning with ch, j, k, n, sh.

UNIFORM CARD BACKS: The reverse side of the cards of each deck have the same four-section format, which includes the name and ISBN number of that product. These identical card backs differ in coloring and design from those of all other phonicspelling *Initial Consonants Word/Picture Cards*, including those of the *168-Card Intermediate* and *252-Card Advanced Levels* phonicspelling *Initial-Consonants Packs*. These “other sides” will help card-users keep cards together in packs.



For phonics-learning purposes, each card back summarizes the language content (kinds of words) of that pack. It lists the letters the 13 *Basic* or 18 *Beginning* sets-of-four begin with. Also listed are the four numbered meaning categories.

To compare, contrast, and work from, here are nearly full-sized images of the card backs for the 52 *Basic* and 72 *Beginning* phonicspelling *Initial-Consonants Cards*.



For reference, here are reduced-sized copies of the backs of the 168-Card *Intermediate* and 252-Card *Advanced* phonicspelling *Initial-Consonants Decks*.

Their items begin with *most* of the possible *initial consonants, digraphs, and clusters* in English.

They contain nearly *all* sounds in *one- and multi-syllable words*.



GRADUATED PHONICS PRINCIPLES: The 13 letters that begin the 52 words of the *Basic* phonicspelling *Initial-Consonants Card Deck*—b, c (pronounced /k/), d, f, g, h, l, m, p, r, s, t, w—represent very common word beginnings in English. Except for c, the *letters* look like the dictionary or *International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)* symbols that stand for the sounds they spell.

The five *other initial consonants* of 20 items of the *72-Card Beginning Deck* are /n/ = n and /k/ = k (less common word beginnings), /sh/ = sh (one sound spelled by *two*

letters, a *digraph*), *ch* and *j* (which represent *two sounds* each, /tʃ/ and /dʒ/). Each of the 124 items of *both decks* has only one syllable, spelled by three to five letters in the *CV(C)* pattern.

TYPICAL LANGUAGE-LEARNING ITEMS: On the next pages, the *IPA* pronunciation of the 18 boxed initial-consonants is between lines / / after equals signs (=). The 52 *Basic* and 72 *Beginning* phonicspelling items are listed in alphabetical order, with their initial-consonants underlined. The second column, shaded, tells where to find each item: **Basic** = *Basic 52-Card Deck*. **Be** = *Beginning 72-Card Deck*.

In the third (shaded) column, numbered letters indicate meaning categories: 1. **P/A** = **People/Animals** (singular common nouns; a few capitalized proper first names) 2. **PI** = **Places** (singular common nouns; a few capitalized place names) 3. **Th** = **Things** (singular common nouns; a few uncountable nouns) 4. **A(V)** = **Actions/Activities** (Simple Verb Forms). The fourth (shaded) column displays dictionary = *IPA* phonetic symbols for the stressed vowel sounds. The last gives extra information.

B
= /b/

C
= /k/

CH
= /tʃ/

D
= /d/

F
= /f/

g
= /g/

F
= /f/

H
= /h/

J
= /j/

K
= /k/

VOCABULARY ITEM	CARD-DECK LEVEL	MEANING CATEGORY	Vowel Sound	LANGUAGE NOTES (EXTRA, ADVANCED)	
B = /b/	bank	<i>Basic</i>	2. PI	1. $\text{ā} = /æ/$	The letter <u>b</u> always stands for the /b/ sound at the start of words. It can be combined with other consonants in initial clusters like <u>br-</u> or <u>bl-</u> or in final clusters such as <u>-rb</u> or <u>-rp</u> . At the end of a few words—like <u>lamb</u> , <u>climb</u> , or <u>tomb</u> , the letter <u>b</u> is silent.
	ball	<i>Beg.</i>	3. Th	7. $\text{ō} = /ɔ/$	
	barn	<i>Beg.</i>	2. PI	8. $\text{a:(r)} = /ā/(r)$	
	beat	<i>Beg.</i>	4. A(V)	11. $\text{ē} = /i/ \text{ or } /i^y/$	
	bed	<i>Basic</i>	3. Th	2. $\text{ē} = /e/$	
	bend	<i>Basic</i>	4. A(V)	2. $\text{ē} = /e/$	
	Bill	<i>Basic</i>	1. P/A	3. $\text{ī} = /i/$	
	boy	<i>Beg.</i>	1. P/A	16. $\text{oi} = /ɔ^y/ \text{ or } /ɔi/$	
C = /k/	camp	<i>Basic</i>	2. PI	1. $\text{ā} = /æ/$	The /k/ sound is most often spelled <u>c</u> before the “back vowels” <u>a o u</u> or in initial consonant clusters like <u>cr-</u> or <u>c/-</u> . The same sound is spelled <u>k</u> before the “front vowels” <u>e i</u> and after “complex” vowel sounds like <u>ā ē ī ō ū ou oi</u> . It’s spelled <u>-ck</u> after “simple” vowels.
	cane	<i>Beg.</i>	3. Th	10. $\text{ā} = /e/ \text{ or } /e^y/$	
	cat	<i>Basic</i>	1. P/A	1. $\text{ā} = /æ/$	
	coast	<i>Beg.</i>	2. PI	13. $\text{ō} = /oo/ \text{ or } /o^y/$	
	cook	<i>Beg.</i>	4. A(V)	6. $\text{ōō} = /o/$	
	cow	<i>Beg.</i>	1. P/A	15. $\text{ou} = /a^y/ \text{ or } /ao/$	
	cup	<i>Basic</i>	3. Th	5. $\text{ū} = /u/$	
	cut	<i>Basic</i>	4. A(V)	5. $\text{ū} = /u/$	
CH = /tʃ/	chair	<i>Beg.</i>	3. Th	10. $\text{ā} = /e/ \text{ or } /e^y/$	The letters <u>ch</u> spell 2 voiceless sounds in combination: /tʃ/. After “simple” vowel sounds like <u>ā ē ī ō ū</u> , /tʃ/ may be spelled <u>-tch</u> .
	chick	<i>Beg.</i>	1. P/A	3. $\text{ī} = /i/$	
	chop	<i>Beg.</i>	4. A(V)	4. $\text{ō} = /a/$	
	church	<i>Beg.</i>	2. PI	9. $\text{û(r)} = /ɜ(r)/$	