

# Vowel Spellings Connect Four

A big thank you to French scribes and the Great Vowel Shift. This is a game to explore the different ways in which vowel sounds are spelt in English and the way in which the same spellings represent different vowel sounds.

cough

through

plough

won

one

only

bun

bier?

bare?

Something you  
drink

A wild animal

beer?

bear?

# Vowel Spellings Connect Four

Originally developed in 2002 by Steve Cooke from the Ethnic Minority Achievement Team in Nottingham and has been subsequently modified by several others. A big thank you to all the medieval Anglo-French scribes efforts and the Great Vowel Shift which contribute to the chaos of modern English spelling: e.g. "Through" "Plough" "Cough"

This is a game to explore the different ways in which vowel sounds are spelt in English and the way in which the same spellings sometimes represent different vowel sounds.

The game board is printed in two parts so you will need to glue the parts together by snipping off one of the margins first. You will need to print the cards in two colours to play the game. If you can laminate the cards or the board, children can then write the word they have chosen in washable felt tip as they play. Alternatively they can keep a record of their words on the sheet provided. More clue cards can be added by pupils as they identify new words. We have now added a gameboard where actual examples of spellings for vowel sounds. Activity last updated 30th January 2019

The webaddress for this activity is:

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/vowelspellingsc4.pdf>

**Collaborative Learning = Oracy in Context  
makes challenging curriculum accessible.  
improves social relations in the classroom.  
provides scaffolding for exploratory talk.**

## COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

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## BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies that promote talk across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We want to encourage you to change them and adapt them to your classroom and students. We run teacher workshops and conferences worldwide but mainly in the UK. The project posts online many activities in all subject areas. An online newsletter is also updated regularly.

\*These activities are influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in non selective classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening. They provide teachers ideal opportunities for assessment of spoken language.

\*They provide scaffolding for differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

\*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in pupils' first languages and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

\*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

\*They are generally work effectively over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

\*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

# Vowel Spellings Connect Four Game

## HOW TO PLAY

You need 4 people, one baseboard and two sets of cards (different colours.)

Work with a partner to make a team of two.

Shuffle your set of cards and place them in a pile facing down.

Take it in turns to turn over the top card and work together to try to think of any word where the vowel is spelt like the spellings on the board.

For example: You are looking for the name of an animal. You can choose 'ape' to place on 'a-e', bear on 'ea' or sheep on 'ee'.

Write your word on the back of the card with a washable pen and place it on the board where the vowel spellings match.

The winning team is the first to get four in row vertically, diagonally or horizontally..

# Vowel Spellings Connect Four Board

a

ai

e

i

o\_e

u

ee

oa

ea

a\_e

o

oo

Cut this bit off and then glue to other half of board

# Vowel Spellings Connect Four Board

a

mat

ai

mail

e

set

i

sit

o\_e

vote

u

cut

ee

meet

oa

boat

ea

meat

a\_e

late

o

lot

oo

loot

Cut this bit off and then glue to other half of board

ay

ou

ew

ow

i\_e

ee

ea

oa

ui

u

a

or

Use this flap to glue one half of the board to the other

ay

say

ou

count

ew

sew

ow

cow

i\_e

site

ee

beet

ea

seat

oa

soar

ui

suit

u

put

a

cat

or

sore

Use this flap to glue one half of the board to the other

# Vowel Spellings Connect Four Cards

A kind of food.	A kind of toy.	Something you find in the sea.	A job someone does.	Something you see outside
Something you drink.	An adjective.	A part of the body.	A connecting word.	Something you find in school.
Something you wear.	Something you find in the kitchen.	A kind of transport.	A boy's or girl's name.	Something you find in the classroom.
The name of a job.	Something you do. (a verb)	The name of an animal.	A kind of building.	A kind of plant or tree.
Something you find in the garden.	Something you find in the street.	Something you find in the house.	A word you find in literacy lessons.	An adverb



# Vowel Spellings Connect Four Card Blanks


My word record

Name \_\_\_\_\_

a				
a_e				
ai				
i				
u				
e				
ea				
oa				
o_e				
or				
o				
ee				
ui				
ou				
ay				
i_e				
ow				
oo				

Sample words

a	mat	sat		
a_e	mate	late		
ai	mail			
i	sit			
u	cut			
e	set			
ea	seat	meat		
oa	boat	soar		
o_e	vote			
or	sore			
o	lot			
ee	meet			
ui	suit			
ou	count			
ay	say			
i_e	site			
ow	cow	mow		
oo	loot	floor		
u_e	cute			
ew	sew	pew	few	