

er /ə/: The grapheme ER spells /ə/

Instructional Notes

This lesson has been added into the Australian Scope and Sequence due to ER commonly representing the sound /ə/ at the end of many two-syllable words.

1: Phonemic Awareness

Blend	Segment
/ō/ (o)	after (af-ter)
/v/ /ə/ (ver)	af (/ar/ /f/)
o-ver (over)	ter (/t/ /ə/)
/w/ /ī/ /n/ (win)	sister (sis-ter)
/t/ /ə/ (ter)	sis (/s/ /ī/ /s/)
win-ter (winter)	ter (/t/ /ə/)

2: Visual Drill

3: Auditory Drill

Graphemes	Phonemes
er (/er/), or (/or/), ore (/or/), a (/ă/, /ā/, /ar/), ar /ar/, y (/y/, /ī/, /ē/), dge (/j/), g (/g/, /j/), tch (/ch/), ch (/ch/), c (/k/, /s/), a (/ă/, /ā/), i (/ī/, /ī/), o (/ō/, /ō/), e (/ě/, /ē/), u (/ū/, /ū/ /yū/)	/er/ (er), /ē/ (e, y), /or/ (or, ore), /ō/ (o), /ar/ (ar, a), /ā/ (a), /ī/ (i, y), /j/ (j, g, dge), /ch/ (ch, tch)

4: Blending Drill

bath → baths → paths → path → pat → past → mast → fast → cast → last → blast → blass → brass → grass → glass → class

Initial			M	Final			+
b	c	f	a	t	ss	st	s
l	m	p		th			
br	gr	bl					
cl	gl						

5: New Concept

Introduction

We have been learning that the /er/ sound is an r-controlled vowel sound. ER can come in the middle of a word, such as the words verb and fern. ER can also come at the end of a word, such as the word her.

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However, when we see ER at the end of a two-syllable word, it is usually pronounced using the schwa sound, /ə/, such as the words letter and number.

Articulatory Gesture

To make the schwa /ə/ sound, open your mouth just a little bit, like this...(model). Be sure your voice is on. Unlike all the other vowel sounds, we don't really stretch out the schwa. We say it more quickly. Watch me /ə/. You try /ə/. Sometimes, a schwa can sound a little like a short u /ü/ or a short i /ī/, but it's actually more relaxed than either of those. Watch me again /ə/. You try again /ə/.

Sound Wall

Add 'er' under /ə/.

Letter Formation

Practise letter formation, as needed.

Read	Spell
I do: ever, after, sister	I do: after
We do: over, under, never, winter, better, river	We do: under, river

6: Word Work

Word Work with Writing

letter → litter → bitter → better → butter → batter

7: Irregular Words

Review	Teach
half, nothing, other, another	water

Continued on next page...

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8: Connected Text		Word Lists
Read	Spell	er /ə/
You better not litter!	My sister never litters.	after
The water is cold in winter.	You can go over or under the bridge.	batter
My father is a pumpkin farmer.	Can my friend have another ride after me?	better
		bitter
		butter
		ever
		farmer
		father
		letter
		lever
		litter
		mister
		never
		over
		river
		sister
		super
		under
		winter
Decodable Text		
<i>See Decodable Text Guide</i>		
Word Work Chains		
Phoneme Level: Intro Lesson		
letter → litter → bitter → better → butter → batter		