

Dyslexia Steps Free printable worksheets

Short a words worksheets

6 pages · 45 words on the full list · answer key on the last page

Name: _____ Date: _____

For the grown-up: do one page a day, about 5 to 10 minutes. Read each instruction aloud, then let your child do the work. Praise careful tries, not speed. Scan the code at the bottom to hear every word and play the free listening game. Answers are on page 6.

1 Read and re-read

Read each word. Say the sounds, then the whole word. Tick a box each time you read it.

	1	2	3		1	2	3
bat	☐	☐	☐	dab	☐	☐	☐
cab	☐	☐	☐	dad	☐	☐	☐
bad	☐	☐	☐	lag	☐	☐	☐
bag	☐	☐	☐	ham	☐	☐	☐
dam	☐	☐	☐	fan	☐	☐	☐
can	☐	☐	☐	lap	☐	☐	☐
cap	☐	☐	☐	hat	☐	☐	☐
cat	☐	☐	☐	jab	☐	☐	☐

Tip: read the list on three different days. By the third tick, most words should come quickly.

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Scan to hear every word and play the listening game

Name: _____

2 Sound boxes

Say the word slowly. Write one sound in each box. Then read the word again.

Tip: push a coin or button into each box as you say each sound, then write.

mat example	m	a	t
lab			
had			
nag			
jam			
man			
map			
pat			
tab			

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Name: _____

3 Missing letters

Write the missing short a sound. Then read the word.

Sound box: a

1. m ___ d

write it: _____

2. r ___ g

write it: _____

3. l ___ d

write it: _____

4. n ___ p

write it: _____

5. y ___ m

write it: _____

6. p ___ n

write it: _____

7. s ___ g

write it: _____

8. s ___ t

write it: _____

9. r ___ m

write it: _____

10. r ___ t

write it: _____

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Scan to hear every word and play the listening game

Name: _____

4 Word sort

Read each word in the box. Write it under the heading where it belongs, then cross it out in the box.

lab cab bad jab lad cat dad
hat mat bat dab had

-at words	-ab words	-ad words

Tip: read the heading word out loud first, then each word in the box. Do they sound alike?

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Scan to hear every word and play the listening game

Name: _____

5 Read the sentences

Read each sentence out loud. Underline the short a words. Tick the box when you can read the sentence smoothly.

1. A cat sat on a mat. ☐
2. Dad had a tan cap. ☐
3. Pam can nap in the van. ☐
4. The ham is in the pan. ☐
5. Sam has a bag and a map. ☐
6. The fat rat ran and ran. ☐
7. Can Dan tap the cab? ☐
8. A bad ram sat on the jam. ☐

Great reading! You finished the pack.



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Answer key

For the grown-up. Check together and keep it light: a mistake shows which sound to practise next.

2. Sound boxes

1. **lab** l | a | b
2. **had** h | a | d
3. **nag** n | a | g
4. **jam** j | a | m
5. **man** m | a | n
6. **map** m | a | p
7. **pat** p | a | t
8. **tab** t | a | b

3. Missing letters

1. **mad** — a
2. **rag** — a
3. **lad** — a
4. **nap** — a
5. **yam** — a
6. **pan** — a
7. **sag** — a
8. **sat** — a
9. **ram** — a
10. **rat** — a

4. Word sort

-at words: bat, cat, hat, mat
-ab words: cab, dab, jab, lab
-ad words: bad, dad, had, lad

5. Underlined words

1. cat, sat, mat
2. Dad, had, tan, cap
3. Pam, can, nap, van
4. ham, pan
5. Sam, has, bag, map
6. fat, rat, ran
7. Can, Dan, tap, cab
8. bad, ram, sat, jam

Next step: words that were hard today go on tomorrow's re-read list. When the whole pack feels easy, move on to the next list at dyslexiasteps.com/cvc-words/short-a (see "Practise next").

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