R-Controlled Vowels

Word sort: ar and or

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

When r comes right after a vowel, it bosses the vowel around. Ar and or each make their own sound.

The two sounds:

ar says /ar/, as in **car**

or says /or/, as in **corn**

Sort the words

Cut out the words. Read each one, then glue or write it in the right column.

corn	**car**	**fork**	**star**
horn	**jar**	**fort**	**barn**
short	**farm**	**storm**	**park**
north	**card**	**sport**	**shark**

ar words	or words

Grown-ups: ar and or each have their own sound, so this sort can be checked by ear — say the word slowly and listen. The next three patterns (er, ir, ur) are different: they all share one sound, which is why page 2 is a spelling page, not a listening page.

R-Controlled Vowels

Complete the word: er, ir, ur — one sound, three spellings

Er, ir and ur all say /er/. Finish each word with the right two letters.

SPELLING BANK

er **ir** **ur**

All three say /er/.

The first word is done for you.

b i r d

h ☐ ☐

t ☐ ☐ n

g ☐ ☐ l

f ☐ ☐ n

c ☐ ☐ l

h ☐ ☐ d

d ☐ ☐ t

b ☐ ☐ n

Say each finished word out loud. They all end with the same /er/ sound — only the letters change.

Grown-ups: no rule picks the spelling — each word’s spelling has to be learned, word by word. If your child writes "burd" or "gurl", the sound is right; praise it, then show the word’s own spelling and have them fix the two letters.

R-Controlled Vowels

Circle the word that fits

Read the sentence. Read BOTH words. Circle the word that fits the sentence.

A _____ is in the sky.

star **fork**

The horse is in the _____.

barn **purse**

I can eat _____ with a fork.

corn **card**

The _____ has a red shirt.

girl **shark**

Her _____ is in the pot.

fern **turn**

Please _____ the page.

turn **stir**

Grown-ups: both choices are bossy-r words, so sounding out is only half the job — your child also has to think about which word makes sense. That is real reading.

R-Controlled Vowels

Read it, draw it

Read each sentence. Then draw what it says in the box.

ar Sam can **park** the **car**.

or I can **sort** the **corn**.

er **Her fern** is in the pot.

ir The **girl** has a red **shirt**.

ur The cat can **purr**.

Grown-ups: the bold words carry the bossy r. Point to the vowel + r in each bold word and say its sound once — /ar/, /or/ or /er/ — before your child draws.

Answer Key

R-controlled vowels pack — for grown-ups

Word sort (page 1)

ar words: car, star, jar, barn, farm, park, card, shark. or words: corn, fork, horn, fort, short, storm, north, sport. Ar says /ar/ and or says /or/ — two different sounds, so a doubtful word can always be settled by reading it aloud.

Complete the word (page 2)

er words: her, fern, herd. ir words: bird (done for you), girl, dirt. ur words: turn, curl, burn. All nine words say /er/ in the middle or at the end — the sound gives no clue to the spelling, so the spelling of each word has to be learned on its own. Sorting er, ir and ur word cards into three piles, like on this page, is the fastest way to make the spellings stick.

Circle the word that fits (page 3)

1. star (not fork). 2. barn (not purse). 3. corn (not card). 4. girl (not shark). 5. fern (not turn). 6. turn (not stir). Both choices are real bossy-r words, and reading both before choosing is the real work on this page.

Read it, draw it (page 4)

The bossy-r words are: park and car (ar); sort and corn (or); Her and fern (er); girl and shirt (ir); purr (ur). These are the same sentences as on the ar, or, er, ir and ur pages of the site. Drawings will all look different, and that is fine — ask your child to read the sentence back and point to the vowel + r in each bold word.

A note about pictures

This pack has no pictures, on purpose. A spelling cannot be drawn: er, ir and ur sound exactly the same, so no picture could ever show which letters to use — and most bossy-r words sit outside the small picture set this site uses. These pages lean on sorting, word families (turn/burn, curl) and sentences instead.

How to use this pack

Work one page a day. Bossy r comes after long vowels in the site path — if page 1 feels hard, spend a week with the long vs short vowels pack first and come back. When these pages feel easy, practice the same words with tap-to-hear audio and flashcards on the R-Controlled Vowels pages, where ar, or, er, ir and ur each have their own word list and sentences.