


















Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words		Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
1-2	I	This Heart Word has one sound – /ī/, <i>I</i> .	I ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
1-2	The/the	This Heart Word has two sounds – /th/uh/ OR /th/ē/, <i>the</i> .	th e ♥ ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. We generally say /th/ē/ before a vowel, and /th/uh/ before a consonant. '/uh/' represents the unstressed schwa phoneme.
1-2	My/my	This Heart Word has two sounds – /m/ī/, <i>my</i> .	m y – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1.
3	He/he	This Heart Word has two sounds – /h/ē/, <i>he</i> .	h e – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
3	She/she	This Heart Word has two sounds – /sh/ē/, <i>she</i> .	sh e ♥ ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
3	We/we	This Heart Word has two sounds – /w/ē/, <i>we</i> .	w e – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
3	Was/was	This Heart Word has three sounds – /w/o/z/, <i>was</i> .	w a s – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
3	To/to	This Heart Word has two sounds – /t/ō/, <i>to</i> .	t o – ♥	/ō/ represented by o is not taught in the LLLL teaching sequence. It occurs in small number of common words: <i>to, do, into, onto, who, today, move, prove, lose, tomorrow</i> .
3	Do/do	This Heart Word has two sounds – /d/ō/, <i>do</i> .	d o – ♥	/ō/ represented by o is not taught in the LLLL teaching sequence. It occurs in small number of common words: <i>to, do, into, onto, who, today, move, prove, lose, tomorrow</i> .

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
4	Her/her This Heart Word has two sounds – /h/er/, <i>her</i> .	h er – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.
4	Of/of This Heart Word has two sounds – /o/v/, <i>of</i> .	o f – 	This is the only word where the grapheme f represents the phoneme /v/, likely due to etymology as the word is derived from 'af' in Old Norse, Old Frisian and Dutch.
4	Are/are This Heart Word has one sound – /ar/, <i>are</i> .	are 	This is the only word where there grapheme are represents the phoneme /ar/.
4	Too/too This Heart Word has two sounds – /t/ōō/, <i>too</i> .	t oo – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
4	For/for This Heart Word has two sounds – /f/or/, <i>for</i> .	f or – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.
4	See/see This Heart Word has two sounds – /s/ē/, <i>see</i> .	s ee – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1.

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
+4	say	This Heart Word has two sounds – /s/ā/, <i>say</i> . s ay – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1. Teach alongside <i>day</i> and <i>play</i> .
+4	day	This Heart Word has two sounds – /d/ā/, <i>day</i> . d ay – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1.
+4	play	This Heart Word has three sounds – /p/l/ā/, <i>play</i> . p l ay – – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1. /p/ and /l/ are decodable, but students haven't learnt the skill of blending adjacent consonants yet – though many students will be ready for this progression at this stage.
+4	cake	This Heart Word has three sounds – /k/ā/k/, <i>cake</i> . c a k e –  – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. a-e is a split vowel digraph, the e is not pronounced.
+4	me	This Heart Word has two sounds – /m/ē/, <i>me</i> . m e – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
+4	oh	This Heart Word has one sound – /ō/, <i>oh</i> . oh 	This is the only word where the grapheme oh represents the phoneme /ō/. This is likely due to etymology as the word is derived directly from Latin as 'oh' (also from Middle English and French 'o').
+4	so	This Heart Word has two sounds – /s/ō/, <i>so</i> . s o – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. Teach with <i>no</i> and <i>go</i> .
+4	no	This Heart Word has two sounds – /n/ō/, <i>no</i> . n o – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. Teach with <i>so</i> and <i>go</i> .
+4	go	This Heart Word has two sounds – /g/ō/, <i>go</i> . g o – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. Teach with <i>no</i> and <i>so</i> .
+4	into	This Heart Word has four sounds – /i/n/t/ō/, <i>into</i> . i n t o – – – 	/ō/ represented by o is not taught in LLLL. It occurs in small number of common words: <i>to, do, into, onto, who, today, move, prove, lose, tomorrow</i> .
+4	you	This Heart Word has two sounds – /y/ō/, <i>you</i> . y ou – 	/ō/ represented by ou is not taught in LLLL. It occurs in small number of common words: <i>you, soup, group, youth, wound</i> .

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words		Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
+4	look	This Heart Word has three sounds – /l/ōō/k/, <i>look</i> .	l o o k – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
+4	some	This Heart Word has three sounds – /s/u/m/, <i>some</i> .	s o me – ♥ ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
+4	little	This Heart Word has five sounds – /l/i/t/uh/l/, <i>little</i> .	l i tt le – – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3. '/uh/' denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme. At Stage 7.3 we teach /ul/ as one sound represented by le for simplicity.
+4	back	This Heart Word has three sounds – /b/a/k/, <i>back</i> .	b a ck – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 5. Teach with <i>sick, neck, lock, pack, duck, rock</i> .
+4	sick	This Heart Word has three sounds – /s/i/k/, <i>sick</i> .	s i ck – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 5. Teach with <i>back, neck, lock, pack, duck, rock</i> .
+4	neck	This Heart Word has three sounds – /n/e/k/, <i>neck</i> .	n e ck – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 5. Teach with <i>sick, back, lock, pack, duck, rock</i> .
+4	lock	This Heart Word has three sounds – /l/o/k/, <i>lock</i> .	l o ck – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 5. Teach with <i>sick, back, neck, pack, duck, rock</i> .
+4	pack	This Heart Word has three sounds – /p/a/k/, <i>pack</i> .	p a ck – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 5. Teach with <i>sick, back, lock, neck, duck, rock</i> .
+4	duck	This Heart Word has three sounds – /d/u/k/, <i>duck</i> .	d u ck – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 5. Teach with <i>back, sick, neck, lock, pack, rock</i> .
+4	rock	This Heart Word has three sounds – /r/o/k/, <i>rock</i> .	r o ck – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 5. Teach with <i>back, sick, neck, lock, pack, duck</i> .

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
5	today	This Heart Word has four sounds – /t/ōō/d/ā/, <i>today</i> . t o d ay – ♥ – ♥	/ōō/ represented by o is not included in the LLLL teaching sequence. It occurs in small number of common words: <i>to, do, into, onto, who, today, move, prove, lose, tomorrow</i> .
5	birthday	This Heart Word has five sounds – /b/er/th/d/ā/, <i>birthday</i> . b ir th d ay – ♥ ♥ – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.
5	be	This Heart Word has two sounds – /b/ē/, <i>be</i> . b e – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
5	happy	This Heart Word has four sounds – /h/a/p/ē/, <i>happy</i> . h a pp y – – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1.
5	sky	This Heart Word has three sounds – /s/k/ī/, <i>sky</i> . s k y – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1.
5	like	This Heart Word has three sounds – /l/ī/k/, <i>like</i> . l i k e – ♥ – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. i-e is a split vowel digraph, the e is not pronounced.
5	time	This Heart Word has three sounds – /t/ī/m/, <i>time</i> . t i m e – ♥ – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. i-e is a split vowel digraph, the e is not pronounced.
5	hello	This Heart Word has four sounds – /h/e/l/ō/, <i>hello</i> . h e ll o – – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
5	home	This Heart Word has three sounds – /h/ō/m/, <i>home</i> . h o m e – ♥ – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. o-e is a split vowel digraph, the e is not pronounced.
5	put	This Heart Word has three sounds – /p/ōō/t/, <i>put</i> . p u t – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
5	zoo	This Heart Word has two sounds – /z/ōō/, <i>zoo</i> . z oo – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
5	come	This Heart Word three sounds – /k/u/m/, <i>come</i> . c o m e – ♥ ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5. Similar Heart Words include <i>some, done</i> and <i>love</i> .

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words		Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
5	love	This Heart Word has three sounds – /l/u/v/, <i>love</i> .	l o ve – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5. Similar Heart Words include <i>some, done</i> and <i>come</i> .
5	shop	This Heart Word has three sounds – /sh/o/p/, <i>shop</i> .	sh o p ♥ – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 6.
5	here	This Heart Word two sounds – /h/ear/, <i>here</i> .	h ere – ♥	/ear/ represented by ere is not included in the LLLL teaching sequence. It occurs in small number of words that aren't common in texts for this age group: <i>here, sphere, mere, adhere, austere, cashmere, interfere, hemisphere, severe, sincere</i> .
5	all	This Heart Word has two sounds – /or/l/, <i>all</i> .	a ll ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.
5	saw	This Heart Word has two sounds – /s/or/, <i>saw</i> .	s aw – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.
5	out	This Heart Word has two sounds – /ow/t/, <i>out</i> .	ou t ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
5	now	This Heart Word has two sounds – /n/ow/, <i>now</i> .	n ow – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
5	down	This Heart Word has three sounds – /d/ow/n/, <i>down</i> .	d ow n – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
5	with	This Heart Word has three sounds – /w/i/th/, <i>with</i> .	w i th – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 6.
5	then	This Heart Word has three sounds – /th/e/n/, <i>then</i> .	th e n ♥ – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 6.
5	said	This Heart Word has three sounds – /s/e/d/, <i>said</i> .	s ai d – ♥ –	/e/ represented by ai is not taught in LLLL. It occurs in very few English words: <i>said, again, against</i> .

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
6	came	This Heart Word has three sounds – /k/ā/m/, <i>came</i> . c a m e – ♥ – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. a-e is a split vowel digraph, the e is not pronounced.
6	Thursday	This Heart Word has five sounds – /th/er/z/d/ā/, <i>Thursday</i> . Th ur s d ay – ♥ – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.
6	they	This Heart Word has two sounds – /th/ā/, <i>they</i> . th ey – ♥	Become decodable at Stage 7.1. They derives from Scandanavian 'thai'.
6	bee	This Heart Word has two sounds – /b/ē/, <i>bee</i> . b ee – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1. Teach with <i>tree</i> and <i>keep</i> .
6	tree	This Heart Word has three sounds – /t/r/ē/, <i>tree</i> . t r ee – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1. Teach with <i>bee</i> and <i>keep</i> .
6	keep	This Heart Word has three sounds – /k/ē/p/, <i>keep</i> . k ee p – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1. Teach with <i>bee</i> and <i>tree</i> .
6	please	This Heart Word has four sounds – /p/l/ē/z/, <i>please</i> . p l ea se – – ♥ ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1.
6	silly	This Heart Word has four sounds – /s/i/l/ē/, <i>silly</i> . s i ll y – – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1.
6	seen	This Heart Word has three sounds – /s/ē/n/, <i>seen</i> . s ee n – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.1.
6	grass	This Heart Word has four sounds – /g/r/ar/s/, <i>grass</i> . g r a ss – – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.
6	park	This Heart Word has three sounds – /p/ar/k/, <i>park</i> . p ar k – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.


Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
6	ball	This Heart Word has three sounds – /b/or/l/, <i>ball</i> . b a ll – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.
6	fall	This Heart Word has three sounds – /f/or/l/, <i>fall</i> . f a ll – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.
6	toy	This Heart Word has two sounds – /t/oi/, <i>toy</i> . t oy – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
6	your	This Heart Word has two sounds – /y/or/, <i>your</i> . y our – ♥	The grapheme our representing /or/ isn't included in the LLLL teaching sequence. It is derived from the word 'you'. Other words that use this spelling are <i>court, four, pour, source, mourn</i> .
6	o'clock	This Heart Word has five sounds – /ō/k/l/o/k/, <i>o'clock</i> . o' c l o ck ♥ – – – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. This Heart Word is an abbreviation of the Middle English 'of the clock/clokke'.
6	good	This Heart Word has three sounds – /g/ōō/d, <i>good</i> . g oo d – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
6	what	This Heart Word has three sounds – /w/o/t/, <i>what</i> . wh a t – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
6	were	This Heart Word has two sounds – /w/er/, <i>were</i> . w ere – ♥	The grapheme ere representing /er/ isn't included in the LLLL teaching sequence. It is irregular and derived from Old English.
6	I've	This Heart Word has two sounds – /ī/v/, <i>I've</i> . I 've ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. This Heart Word is a contraction of the two words 'I have'.
6	onto	This Heart Word has four sounds – /o/n/t/ōō/, <i>onto</i> . o n t o – – – ♥	/ōō/ represented by o is not included in the LLLL teaching sequence. It occurs in small number of common words: <i>to, do, into, who, today, move, prove, lose, tomorrow</i> .
6	thumb	This Heart Word has three sounds – /th/u/m/, <i>thumb</i> . th u mb – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
6	there	This Heart Word has two sounds – /th/air/, <i>there</i> . th ere – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.
6	Mrs	This Heart Word has five sounds – /m/i/s/uh/z/, <i>Mrs</i> . –	Abbreviation of the title ‘Mistress’ – meaning ‘a married woman’.
6	Mr	This Heart Word has five sounds – /m/i/s/t/er/ – <i>Mr</i> . –	Abbreviation of the title ‘Mister’ – an adult man.
6	dollar	This Heart Word has four sounds – /d/o/l/ar/, <i>dollar</i> . d o ll ar – – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2. Naturally pronounced /d/o/l/uh/ where ‘uh/’ denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme.
6	doctor	This Heart Word has five sounds – /d/o/k/t/or/, <i>doctor</i> . d o c t or – – – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2. Naturally pronounced /d/o/k/t/uh/ where ‘uh/’ denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme.
6	firemen	This Heart Word has six sounds – /f/i/uh/m/e/n/, <i>firemen</i> . f i re m e n – ♥ ♥ – – –	The grapheme ire representing /i/uh/ is not included in the LLLL teaching sequence. It occurs in few words, such as <i>tire</i> .
6	ladder	This Heart Word has four sounds – /l/a/d/er/, <i>ladder</i> . l a dd er – – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2. Naturally pronounced /l/a/d/uh/ where ‘uh/’ denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme.
6	panther	This Heart Word has five sounds – /p/a/n/th/er/, <i>panther</i> . p a n th er – – – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2. Naturally pronounced /p/a/n/th/uh/ where ‘uh/’ denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme.
6	jungle	This Heart Word has six sounds – /j/uh/ng/g/uh/l/, <i>jungle</i> . j u n g le – – ♥ ♥ ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3. ‘uh/’ denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme. At Stage 7.3 we teach /ul/ as one sound represented by le for simplicity. <i>Jungle</i> is an unusual word. Whilst ng appears in the word and so does the sound /ng/, the g is also pronounced. It is derived from the Hindi word ‘jangaal’.
6	me-ow	This Heart Word has three sounds – /m/ē/ow/, <i>me-ow</i> . m e ow – ♥ ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. This Heart Word is a sound effect – the noise a cat makes. It can be spelled with or without a hyphen. LLLL uses a hyphen to separate the syllables and therefore the adjacent vowels for beginner readers.

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
7.1	about	This Heart Word has four sounds – /a/b/ow/t/, <i>about</i> . a b o u t – –  –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3. Naturally pronounced /uh/b/ow/t/ where 'uh/' denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme.
7.1	climb	This Heart Word has four sounds – /k/l/i/m/, <i>climb</i> . c l i m b – –  	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
7.1	cool	This Heart Word has three sounds – /k/oo/l/, <i>cool</i> . c o o l –  –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
7.1	dear	This Heart Word has two sounds – /d/ear/, <i>dear</i> . d e a r – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.1	forgot	This Heart Word has five sounds – /f/or/g/o/t/, <i>forgot</i> . f o r g o t –  – – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.
7.1	full	This Heart Word has three sounds – /f/oo/l/, <i>full</i> . f u l l –  –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
7.1	grow	This Heart Word has three sounds – /g/r/ow/, <i>grow</i> . g r o w – – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
7.1	hermit	This Heart Word has five sounds – /h/er/m/i/t/, <i>hermit</i> . h e r m i t –  – – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.
7.1	higher	This Heart Word has three sounds – /h/i/er/, <i>higher</i> . h i g h e r – – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2. Naturally pronounced /h/i/uh/ where 'uh/' denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme.
7.1	how	This Heart Word has two sounds – /h/ow/, <i>how</i> . h o w – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
7.1	last	This Heart Word has four sounds – /l/ar/s/t/, <i>last</i> . l a s t –  – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2





Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
7.1	make	This Heart Word has three sounds – /m/ā/k/, <i>make</i> . m a k e – ♥ – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. a-e is a split vowel digraph, the e is not pronounced.
7.1	maybe	This Heart Word has four sounds – /m/ā/b/ē/, <i>maybe</i> . m a y b e – – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
7.1	Monday	This Heart Word has five sounds – /m/u/n/d/ā/, <i>Monday</i> . M o n d a y – ♥ – – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5 with words like <i>mother, son, done, come, won</i> .
7.1	mouth	This Heart Word has three sounds – /m/ow/th/, <i>mouth</i> . m o u t h – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
7.1	one	This Heart Word has three sounds – /w/u/n/, <i>one</i> . o n e ♥	This is an irregular spelling occurring in very few connected words – <i>one, someone, everyone</i> . Originally pronounced /ō/n/ like <i>only, alone</i> etc. The current pronunciation derived from southwest England in a translation of the Bible in the c.14 century.
7.1	only	This Heart Word has four sounds – /ō/n/l/ē/, <i>only</i> . o n l y ♥ – – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
7.1	our	This Heart Word has two sounds – /ow/uh/, <i>our</i> . o u r ♥ –	Also pronounced as one sound – /ow/. <i>Our</i> is an irregular spelling, derived from Old English 'ure'.
7.1	over	This Heart Word has three sounds – /ō/v/er/, <i>over</i> . o v e r ♥ – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
7.1	rainbow	This Heart Word has five sounds – /r/ā/n/b/ō/, <i>rainbow</i> . r a i n b o w – – – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
7.1	school	This Heart Word has four sounds – /s/k/ōō/l/, <i>school</i> . s c h o o l – ♥ ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
7.1	tear	This Heart Word has two sounds – /t/ear/, <i>tear</i> . t e a r – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.2.

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes	
7.1	tiny	This Heart Word has four sounds – /t/ī/n/ē/, <i>tiny</i> .	t i n y – ♥ – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
7.1	these	This Heart Word has three sounds – /th/ē/z/, <i>these</i> .	th e s e – ♥ – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. e-e is a split vowel digraph, the last e is not pronounced.
7.1	toe	This Heart Word has two sounds – /t/ō/, <i>toe</i> .	t oe – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
7.1	tonight	This Heart Word has five sounds – /t/ōō/n/ī/t/, <i>tonight</i> .	t o n igh t – ♥ – – –	/ōō/ represented by o is not taught in LLLL. It occurs in small number of common words: <i>to, do, into, onto, who, today</i> , etc. <i>Tonight</i> is naturally pronounced /t/uh/n/ī/t/ where 'uh/' denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme.
7.1	Tuesday	This Heart Word has five sounds – /ch/ōō/z/d/ā/, <i>Tuesday</i> .	T ue s d ay ♥ ♥ – – –	<i>Tuesday</i> is an irregular spelling derived from Old English.
7.1	vanished	This Heart Word has six sounds – /v/a/n/i/sh/t/, <i>vanished</i> .	v a n i sh ed – – – – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.1	water	This Heart Word has four sounds – /w/or/t/er/, <i>water</i> .	w a t er – ♥ – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5. Naturally pronounced /w/or/t/uh/ where 'uh/' denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme.
7.2	balloon	This Heart Word has five sounds – /b/a/l/ōō/n/, <i>balloon</i> .	b a ll oo n – ♥ – ♥ –	Naturally pronounced /b/uh/l/ōō/n/ where 'uh/' denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme. Decodable from Stage 7.3. Derived from Italian and French.
7.2	beware	This Heart Word has four sounds – /b/ē/w/air/, <i>beware</i> .	b e w are – ♥ – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
7.2	could	This Heart Word has three sounds – /k/ōō/d/, <i>could</i> .	c oul d – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
7.2	done	This Heart Word has three sounds – /d/u/n/, <i>done</i> .	d o ne – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes	
7.2	everyone	This Heart Word has seven sounds – /e/v/er/ē/w/u/n/, <i>everyone</i> .	e v er y one – – – – 	<i>One</i> is an irregular spelling, occurring in very few connected words – <i>one, someone, everyone</i> .
7.2	ear	This Heart Word has one sound – /ear/, <i>ear</i> .	ear 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.2	eye	This Heart Word has one sound – /ī/, <i>eye</i> .	eye 	<i>Eye</i> is an irregular spelling unique to this word, derived from Old English.
7.2	goes	This Heart Word has three sounds – /g/ō/z/, <i>goes</i> .	g o es –  –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
7.2	great	This Heart Word has four sounds – /g/r/ā/t/, <i>great</i> .	g r ea t – –  –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.2	heart	This Heart Word has three sounds – /h/ar/t/, <i>heart</i> .	h ear t –  –	ear is an irregular spelling for /ar/ used only in <i>heart</i> and connected words like <i>heartbreak</i> .
7.2	laugh	This Heart Word has three sounds – /l/ar/f/, <i>laugh</i> .	l au gh –   –	au representing /ar/ is an irregular spelling only used in <i>laugh</i> and <i>aunt</i> . gh representing /f/ is not a common spelling – it is also used in common words <i>cough, rough, tough, enough</i> .
7.2	learnt	This Heart Word has four sounds – /l/er/n/t/, <i>learnt</i> .	l ear n t –  – –	ear is an irregular spelling for /er/ used only in <i>learn, earth, heard, earn, search, pearl, early, rehearse</i> and <i>research</i> .
7.2	mother	This Heart Word has four sounds – /m/u/th/er/, <i>mother</i> .	m o th er –  – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5. Naturally pronounced /m/u/th/uh/ where /uh/ denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme.
7.2	people	This Heart Word has four sounds – /p/ē/p/ul/, <i>people</i> .	p eo p le –  – –	eo representing /ē/ is a unique spelling to this word, which is derived from Anglo-French 'peple'.
7.2	poor	This Heart Word has two sounds – /p/or/, <i>poor</i> .	p oor – 	oor is an irregular spelling for /or/ used in very few words including <i>poor, door</i> and <i>floor</i> .
















Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
7.2	push	This Heart Word has three sounds – /p/ōō/sh/, <i>push</i> . p u sh – ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
7.2	race	This Heart Word has three sounds – /r/ā/s/, <i>race</i> . r a c e – ♥ — ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. a-e is a split vowel digraph, the e is not pronounced. c before an e , i or y is pronounced /s/.
7.2	scarecrow	This Heart Word has six sounds – /s/k/air/k/r/ō/, <i>scarecrow</i> . s c a r e c r o w – — ♥ — — —	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
7.2	shoe	This Heart Word has two sounds – /sh/ōō/, <i>shoe</i> . sh oe – ♥	oe representing /ōō/ is irregular and only used in two words <i>shoe</i> and <i>canoe</i> . <i>Shoe</i> is derived from Middle English 'sho' and an old plural form 'shoon'.
7.2	someone	This Heart Word has six sounds – /s/u/m/w/u/n/, <i>someone</i> . s o m e o n e – ♥ — ♥	<i>One</i> is an irregular spelling, occurring in very few connected words – <i>one</i> , <i>someone</i> , <i>everyone</i> .
7.2	something	This Heart Word has six sounds – /s/u/m/th/i/ng/, <i>something</i> . s o m e t h i n g – ♥ — — — —	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.2	their	This Heart Word has two sounds – /th/air/, <i>their</i> . th eir – ♥	eir is an irregular spelling for /air/ only used in <i>their</i> (and possibly <i>heir</i> , but their origins are different).
7.2	wood	This Heart Word has three sounds – /w/ōō/d/, <i>wood</i> . w o o d – ♥ —	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.3.
7.2	year	This Heart Word has two sounds – /y/ear/, <i>year</i> . y ear – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.3	apron	This Heart Word has five sounds – /ā/p/r/o/n/, <i>apron</i> . a p r o n ♥ — — — —	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. Naturally pronounced /ā/p/r/uh/n/ where /uh/ denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme.
7.3	behind	This Heart Word has six sounds – /b/ē/h/i/n/d/, <i>behind</i> . b e h i n d – ♥ — ♥ — —	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. Naturally pronounced /b/uh/h/i/n/d/ where /uh/ denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme.

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
7.3	colour This Heart Word has four sounds – /k/u/l/er/, <i>colour</i> .	c o l our – ♥ – ♥	Naturally pronounced /k/u/l/uh/ where /uh/ denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme. our is an irregular spelling originally derived from Latin and Old French. Similar spelling patterns can be found in <i>journey, journal, journalist</i> and <i>courtesy</i> .
7.3	cookie This Heart Word has four sounds – /k/oo/k/ē/, <i>cookie</i> .	c oo k ie – – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.3	fire This Heart Word has three sounds – /fī/uh/, <i>fire</i> .	f i re – ♥ ♥	ire representing /ī/uh/ is not taught in the LLLL sequence – it only occurs in few words such as <i>tire, fire</i> . Pronunciation is likely caused by the co-articulation of the long vowel and the /r/. <i>Fire</i> derives from Old English 'fyr'.
7.3	friend This Heart Word has five sounds – /f/r/e/n/d/, <i>friend</i> .	f r ie n d – – ♥ – –	This spelling is not taught in the LLLL sequence – it only occurs in the word <i>friend</i> .
7.3	goodbye This Heart Word has five sounds – /g/oo/d/bī/, <i>goodbye</i> .	g oo d b ye – – – – ♥	ye representing /ī/ is uncommon and only occurs in a few words – <i>bye, dye</i> and <i>rye</i> .
7.3	hear This Heart Word has two sounds – /h/ear/, <i>hear</i> .	h ear – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.3	koala This Heart Word has two sounds – /k/ō/ar/l/a/, <i>koala</i> .	k o a l a – ♥ – – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4.
7.3	late This Heart Word has three sounds – /l/ā/t/, <i>late</i> .	l a t e – ♥ — ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. a-e is a split vowel digraph, the e is not pronounced.
7.3	made This Heart Word has three sounds – /m/ā/d/, <i>made</i> .	m a d e – ♥ — ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. a-e is a split vowel digraph, the e is not pronounced.
7.3	nothing This Heart Word has five sounds – /n/u/th/i/ng/, <i>nothing</i> .	n o th i ng – ♥ – – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.3	once This Heart Word has four sounds – /w/u/n/s/, <i>once</i> .	o n ce ♥ – ♥	Linked to the spelling of <i>one</i> . Derived from Old English two-syllable word 'ones'.

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
7.3	outside	This Heart Word has five sounds – /ow/t/s/i/d/, <i>outside</i> . ou t s i d e – – –  – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. i-e is a split vowel digraph, the e is not pronounced.
7.3	shape	This Heart Word has three sounds – /sh/ā/p/, <i>shape</i> . sh a p e –  – 	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. a-e is a split vowel digraph, the e is not pronounced.
7.3	sometimes	This Heart Word has seven sounds – /s/u/m/t/i/m/z/, <i>sometimes</i> . s o m e t i m e s –  – –  –  –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.3	sugar	This Heart Word has four sounds – /sh/u/g/ar/, <i>sugar</i> . s u g ar  – – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5. Naturally pronounced /sh/u/g/uh/ where /uh/ denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme.
7.3	table	This Heart Word has five sounds – /t/ā/b/uh/l/, <i>table</i> . t a b le –  – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.4. /uh/ denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme. At Stage 7.3 we teach /ul/ as one sound represented by le , for simplicity.
7.3	two	This Heart Word has two sounds – /t/ōō/, <i>two</i> . tw o  	An irregular spelling where w is not pronounced. Derived from Old English 'twa', and linked to words meaning 'two things' such as <i>twin</i> , <i>twice</i> .
7.3	we're	This Heart Word has three sounds – /w/ē/uh/, <i>we're</i> . w e 're –  	This Heart Word is a contraction of the two Heart Words 'we are'. /uh/ denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme. Alternative pronunciations are /w/air/ and /w/er/.
7.3	who	This Heart Word has two sounds – /h/ōō/, <i>who</i> . wh o  	wh only represents the /h/ sound in this word. Derived from Old English 'hwa' and Germanic 'hwas'. o representing /ōō/ is not taught in the LLLL sequence as it is not a common spelling – most common words using this spelling are covered as Heart Words, such as <i>do</i> , <i>to</i> .

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes	
7.4	any	This Heart Word has three sounds – /e/n/ē/, <i>any</i>	a n y ♥ — —	a representing /e/ is an irregular spelling only occurring in a few words including <i>any</i> , <i>many</i> , <i>secondary</i> .
7.4	bridges	This Heart Word has six sounds – /b/r/i/j/e/z/, <i>bridges</i>	b r i dge s — — — ♥ ♥	The grapheme dge representing /j/ becomes decodable at Stage 7.5. But this word still remains tricky as the second vowel is pronounced /b/r/i/j/e/z/, not /b/r/i/j/z/.
7.4	castle	This Heart Word has five sounds – /k/a/s/uh/l/, <i>castle</i> (or /k/ar/s/uh/l/)	c a st le — — ♥ —	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.4	comfy	This Heart Word has five sounds – /k/u/m/f/ē/, <i>movies</i>	c o m f y — ♥ — — —	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.4	dinosaur	This Heart Word has six sounds – /d/i/n/uh/s/or/, <i>dinosaur</i> .	d i n o s aur — — — — — ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.4	does	This Heart Word has three sounds – /d/u/z/, <i>does</i> .	d o es — ♥ —	The word <i>does</i> stems from the third-person singular present indicative of 'do', a Northumbrian variant in Old English that displaced 'doth, doeth' in literary English.
7.4	door	This Heart Word has two sounds – /d/or/, <i>door</i>	d oor — ♥	oor is an irregular spelling for /or/ used in very few words including <i>poor</i> , <i>door</i> and <i>floor</i> .
7.4	earth	This Heart Word has two sounds – /er/th/, <i>earth</i> .	ear th ♥ —	ear is an irregular spelling for /er/ used only in <i>learn</i> , <i>earth</i> , <i>heard</i> , <i>earn</i> , <i>search</i> , <i>pearl</i> , <i>early</i> , <i>rehearse</i> and <i>research</i>
7.4	floor	This Heart Word has three sounds – /f/l/or/, <i>floor</i>	f l oor — — ♥	oor is an irregular spelling for /or/ used in very few words including <i>poor</i> , <i>door</i> and <i>floor</i> .
7.4	furniture	This Heart Word has six sounds – /f/er/n/i/ch/uh/, <i>furniture</i>	f ur n i t ure — — — — ♥ ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.4	ghost	This Heart Word has four sounds – /g/ō/s/t/, <i>ghost</i> .	gh o s t ♥ — — —	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
7.4	guess	This Heart Word has three sounds – /g/e/s/, <i>guess</i> gu e ss ♥ – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.4	guest	This Heart Word has four sounds – /g/e/s/t/, <i>guest</i> gu e s t ♥ – – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.4	Guy	This Heart Word has two sounds – /g/i/, <i>guy</i> gu y ♥ –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.4	hour	This Heart Word has two sounds – /ow/uh/, <i>hour</i> hour ♥	The measurement of time was originally time of prayer derived from old French 'ore', 'hore'. The h has persisted in this word despite not being pronounced since Roman times.
7.4	judge	This Heart Word has three sounds – /j/uh/j/, <i>judge</i> j u dge – – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.4	listen	This Heart Word has five sounds – /l/i/s/uh/n/, <i>listen</i> . l i st e n – – ♥ – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.4	million	This Heart Word has six sounds – /m/i/l/y/uh/n/, <i>million</i> m i ll i o n – – – ♥ – –	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5 when suffix -ion is taught.
7.4	minute	This Heart Word has five sounds – /m/i/n/uh/t/, <i>minute</i> m i n u t e – – – ♥ – ♥	Naturally pronounced /m/i/n/uh/t/ where 'uh/' denotes the unstressed schwa phoneme. In British English, the unstressed vowel is usually pronounced /i/. <i>Minute</i> derives from Latin word 'minuta', meaning 'a small portion'.
7.4	movie	This Heart Word has four sounds – /m/ōv/ē/, <i>movie</i> m o v ie – ♥ – ♥	Whilst ie representing /ē/ is taught at Stage 7.5, /ōv/ represented by o is not taught in the LLLL teaching sequence. It occurs in small number of common words: <i>to, do, into, onto, who, today, move, prove, lose, tomorrow</i> .
7.4	near	This Heart Word has two sounds – /n/ear/, <i>near</i> . n ear – ♥	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.4	queue	This Heart Word has three sounds – /k/y/ō/, <i>queue</i> qu eue ♥ ♥	The word <i>queue</i> stems from the twelfth century and refers to the Old French word 'cue', 'coe', or 'queue', which means 'tail'.

Heart Words Teaching Guide

Stage	Heart Words	Graphemes	Additional Teacher Notes
7.4	sausage This Heart Word has five sounds – /s/o/s/i/j/, <i>sausage</i>	s au s a ge — ♥ — ♥ —	au representing /o/ is an irregular spelling only occurring in a few words including <i>because</i> , <i>vault</i> and <i>cauliflower</i> .
7.4	super This Heart Word has four sounds – /s/oo/p/er/, <i>super</i> .	s u p er — ♥ — —	u is an irregular spelling for /oo/. Derived from the latin 'super' meaning 'above, over, beyond'.
7.4	tire This Heart Word has three sounds – /t/i/uh/, <i>tire</i> .	t i re — ♥ ♥	ire representing /i/uh/ is not taught in the LLLL sequence – it only occurs in few words such as <i>tire</i> , <i>fire</i> . Pronunciation is likely caused by the co-articulation of the long vowel and the /r/.
7.4	tissue This Heart Word has four sounds – /t/i/sh/oo/, <i>tissue</i> .	t i ss ue — — ♥ —	ss is an irregular spelling for /sh/ used in very few words including <i>assure</i> , <i>issue</i> , <i>pressure</i> and <i>tissue</i> .
7.4	tongue This Heart Word has three sounds – /t/uh/ng/, <i>tongue</i>	t o ngue — ♥ ♥	ngue representing /ng/ is an irregular spelling only occurring in <i>meringue</i> and <i>tongue</i> . <i>Tongue</i> derives from Old English 'tunge'.
7.4	view This Heart Word has two sounds – /v/yoo/, <i>view</i>	v iew — ♥	iew is an irregular spelling unique to this word. Derived from Anglo-Norman French word 'vieuve' meaning 'to see'.
7.4	want This Heart Word has four sounds – /w/o/n/t/, <i>want</i> .	w a n t — ♥ — —	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.4	wash This Heart Word has three sounds – /w/o/sh/, <i>wash</i>	w a sh — ♥ —	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.
7.4	Wednesday This Heart Word has six sounds – /w/e/n/z/d/ā/, <i>Wednesday</i> .	W e dn es d ay — — ♥ ♥ — —	<i>Wednesday</i> has a silent letter d that we don't pronounce when we say the word. It can be useful to say it in a spelling voice to remember the spelling Wed-nes-day. The spelling is unique, derived from Old English 'Wōdnesdæg' and Middle English 'Wednesdei, day of Woden'.
7.4	whole This Heart Word has three sounds – /h/ō/l/, <i>whole</i>	wh o l e ♥ — — — — —	wh only represents the /h/ sound in a few words <i>who</i> , <i>whose</i> , <i>whole</i> . An alternative pronunciation is /h/o/l/.
7.4	won This Heart Word has three sounds – /w/u/n/, <i>won</i>	w o n — ♥ —	Becomes decodable at Stage 7.5.