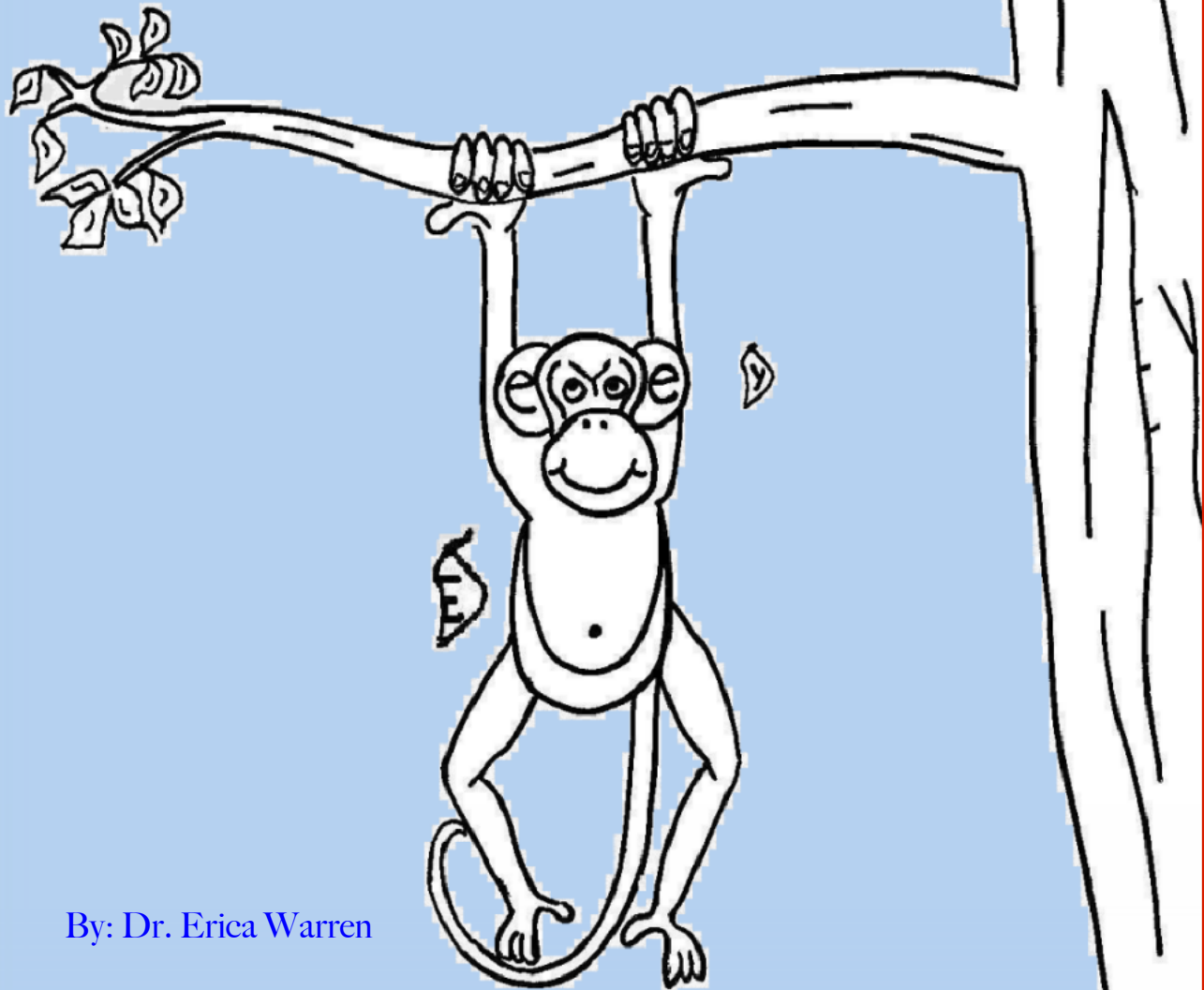


Vowel Combinations Made Easy: Sample Pages & Activities

**Multisensory and Fun Ways to
Learn Vowel Combinations**



By: Dr. Erica Warren

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Introduction

Vowel Combinations Made Easy is an innovative, fun, multisensory approach to learning the vowel combination or vowel team sounds through entertaining activities and multisensory games. Immersed in these lessons are visual and auditory memory strategies that enhance encoding as well as recall of new knowledge.

Learning the vowel combinations is a critical step in learning to read, and these games were designed for struggling readers. Great success has been achieved engaging even the most discouraged learner. Through this captivating approach, general education teachers, special education teachers, reading specialists, learning specialists and parents can obtain rapid and rewarding results. Students will enthusiastically learn vowel combination sounds and gain confidence in reading.

What are vowel combinations? Vowel combinations or vowel teams are when two or more vowels, a vowel with a "w" or vowel(s) with a "gh" make a single sound in a word. Although the old saying: "When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking" can help students learn about a third of the vowel

combinations, students run into problems when trying to learn the ones that do not conform to this rule.

Hidden Vowel Combinations & Coloring Activities

Directions: Present the following drawings to students one at a time.

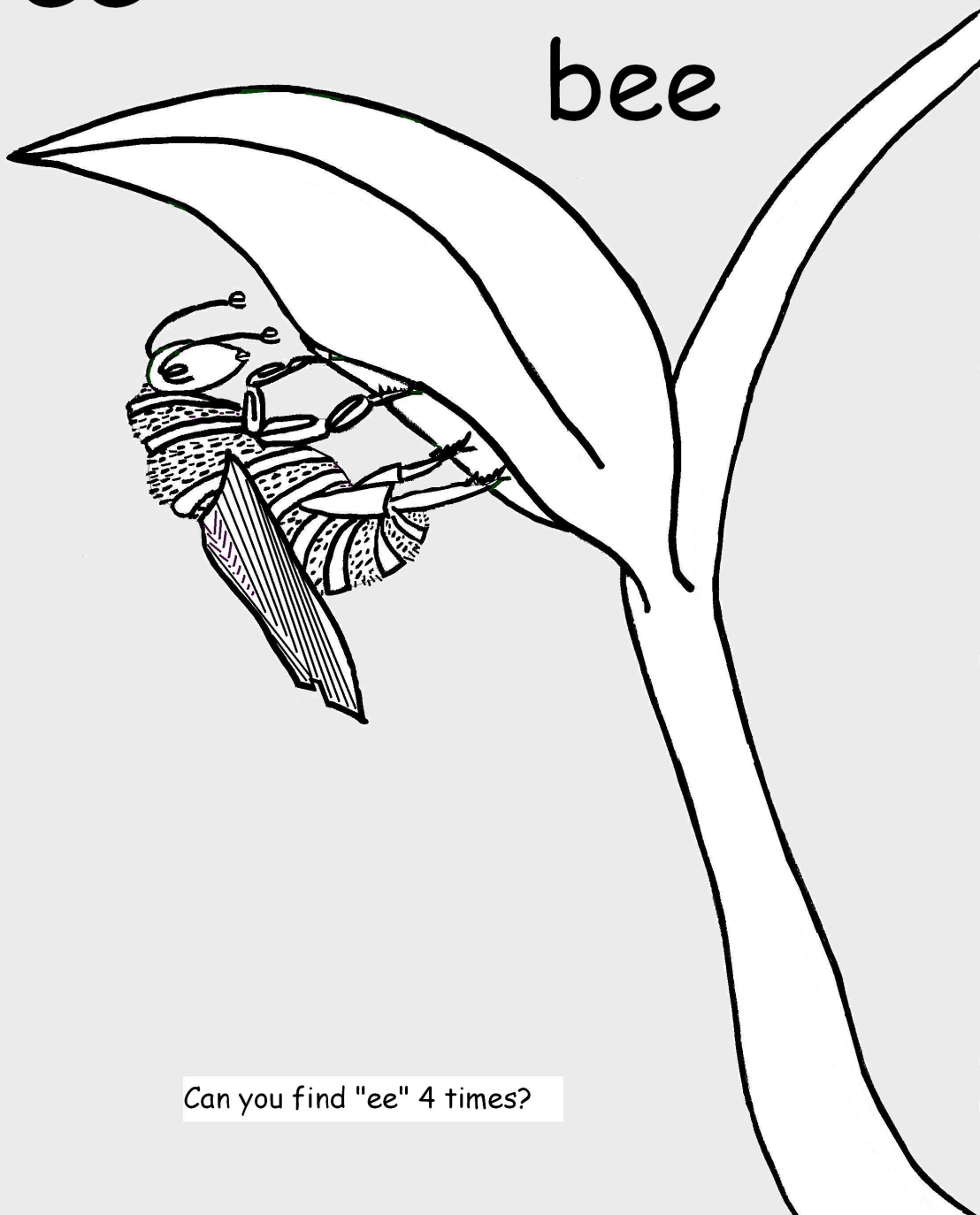
Encourage them to find the hidden vowel combinations in the image and then let them color in the drawing. As they are coloring, you can discuss other words that use the same vowel combination. Finally, suggest that the learner(s) close their eyes and visualize the vowel combination in the drawing so that they can remember the image and the sound associated with it.

Please note that I did not include "eu" in this workbook. This is because there are not many "eu" words in the English language. In addition, almost all of them are **not** in an elementary or middle school vocabulary.

ee

as in

bee

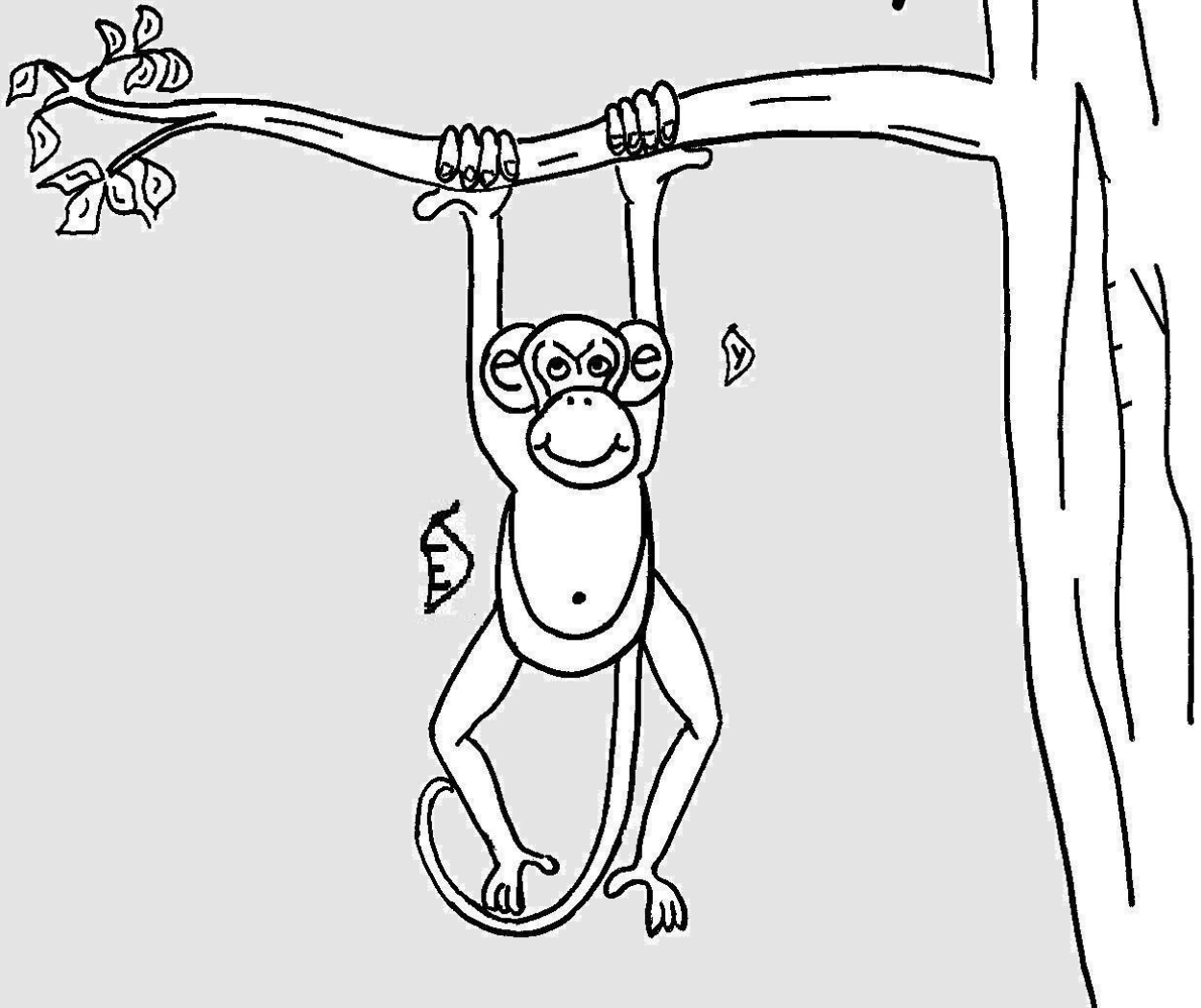


Can you find "ee" 4 times?

Can you find "ey" 4 times?

ey

as in monkey



Mazes and Activities

In the following pages the vowel combinations can be practiced by completing the mazes and playing games. Please note that you can start with the mazes after learning the first two vowel combinations. Additional activities are available as you continue to learn further vowel combinations.

Please read all the directions to the students:

See the sample below:

Help Shayna, the cat, get home. Follow all the vowel combinations that make the long "a" sound found in her name. The boxes must be touching each other and you cannot make a diagonal move.

What are two vowel combinations that say long "a?"

Answer:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ay as in pray | ai as in daisy |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|



| | | | | | | |
|-----|----|----|----|------|----|------|
| oi | ee | oo | ai | ee | oy | ee |
| oa | ew | oy | ue | oi | ay | oo |
| oy | ee | oi | oo | oy | ai | igh |
| oi | ay | ew | ee | oi | ay | ai → |
| ay | ai | oy | oe | oa | ai | oy |
| ou | ay | ai | ai | oi | ay | aw |
| igh | ue | oa | ay | ai | ai | ee |
| au | oe | aw | ay | eigh | ai | oi |



We just learned the first two vowel combinations that can say the long "ee" sound. Try not to look back at the drawings, and imagine where you found the hidden vowel combinations in the pictures. See if you can visualize the pictures in your head.

What are the first two vowel combinations that say "e?"

Now, follow the vowel combinations that say the long "e" sound from the bee to the honey. The boxes must be touching each other and you cannot make a diagonal move. **Begin in the first column.**

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| ay | oa | ai | au | oa | ay | ey |
| ai | aw | ee | ey | ee | oi | aw |
| au | oi | ey | oy | ey | ai | au |
| oa | ey | ee | ai | ee | ey | oa |
| ai | ee | ay | oy | ey | oy | ay |
| ee | ey | oa | ey | ee | aw | oi |
| ay | ai | oi | ee | oy | ee | ey |
| ee | au | oa | ey | ee | ey | ai |

About the Author: Dr. Erica Warren

Dr. Warren has always aspired to empower the spirit of those who struggle with learning. So after finishing a bachelor's degree in fine arts, Dr. Warren tailored a special degree program that combined course-work and research in Educational Psychology, Special Education, School Psychology, and Adult Education.

In 1999, Dr. Warren opened the doors of Learning to Learn in Ossining NY. What started as a private practice to help individual students maximize their learning potential and find joy in the learning process, blossomed into a place where students, parents, teachers and schools can receive educational support, materials, training and advice. Her website, www.learningtolearn.biz offers an ever-growing wealth of information, links, materials and support. Learning to Learn now offers:

- One to one educational support
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- Student advocacy



In 2005, Dr. Warren unveiled **Good Sensory Learning and Dyslexia Materials** where student-inspired, fun, multisensory teaching materials are created and available to the public.

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