

Teaching Sound Spelling Patterns Part 3

Bossy R Returns

In our [R-Controlled Spellings](#) blog, we learned the true story of Bossy R and what happens when he goes walking with his friends. Today, we will see what happened next!

How to Teach AR Sounding Like the Name of R



The fact of the matter is Bossy R is just what his name suggests. He decided a long time ago that when a vowel is standing by him, the vowel is not allowed to talk. HE must do all the talking. So, when you see ER, OR, UR, or IR, all you hear is the sound, "rrrrr." However, by the time Bossy R got to A, A had heard all she wanted to hear about who was to do all the talking. So there came Bossy R to stand by her! This time when they started to speak, A slyly poked R in the ribs and he was so startled that instead of saying, "RRRR," like he always did, he shouted out his name, "R!"

You can find this sound spelling pattern in many words! Here are a few:

art

ark

tart

part

park

party

partner

One of my favorite AR words is the word **star**. I also like to think of a little story of a guy named **Mark** who went to the **park** to sit on the grass and watch the **stars** at night. Then there was a guy named **Art** who took the **cart** apart! They both knew **Smart Bart** who got a **tart** at the **Mart**. These could make great writing prompts for your students!

Practice saying some AR words and have the children sound them and write them, one sound at a time, on their whiteboards.

How to Teach ARE Sounding Like AIR



Oh my, here's Bossy R again! He makes our language tricky and interesting! This time A got reinforcements to be able to talk when Bossy R is around. Instead of just poking Bossy R when he started to talk, she decided to learn to speak up for herself. So, in these words, when you see ARE, it is going to sound like long A and "rrrr." Normally we spell this sound like this: AIR. Here are some sample words:

fare

care

hare

pare

tare

In the picture on the front of the card, you can plainly see a hare that is super distressed. It would appear that somehow, he lost all his hair! Maybe spring came and he shed his heavy winter coat. At any rate, the hare DOES care that he's bare! Maybe without his heavy winter coat, he can feel the air blowing against his skin.

Let the children draw their own picture of the miserable hare with no hair. Then have them practice writing and sounding the ARE words from the list above. Other words to include might be scare, share, rare, spare, stare, aware, declare, flare, prepare.

Sounds of OW

How to Teach the OW Sound When it Sounds Like OW



Look at the child in the picture on the front of the card. I suspect he was playing and fell down. Maybe he skinned his knees! Anyway, he looks like something really hurts! I think he's crying, "OW!"

Notice how his mouth makes the O shape and his arms make the W in OW! Here are some words to sound out. When the children get to the OW part, have them do the action from the picture!

cow

pow

now

There are some words that have the OW spelling at the end, and many with the OW spelling at the end of a syllable:

powder

coward

tower

Practice sounding out words and writing them on the whiteboard - all sounding together while you write. Next, you call out each word and the children will sound them out while they write them on whiteboards. They can underline the OW in each word to make it stand out.

How to Teach the OW Sound When it Sounds Like OH



Look at the child in the picture on the front of the card. I suspect he just thought of something he had forgotten for a moment. What do you think it is? Maybe he forgot to do his homework.

Maybe he forgot how to do a certain problem in math. Anyway, he looks to me like someone who just thought of something. Practice together saying, "OH!", spelled like OW, and acting like the child in the picture looks. Here are some words where the OW sounds like OH:

snow

glow

grow

flow

Of course, there are words that have the OW inside them:

snowball

snowfall

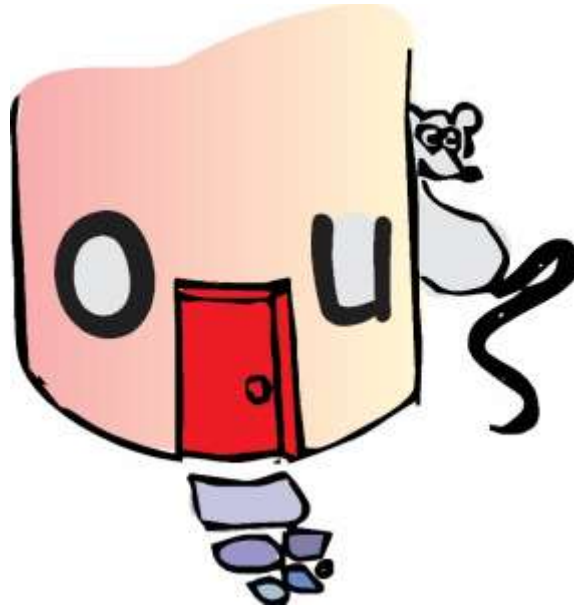
growing

flowing

Practice sounding out words and writing them on the whiteboard - all sounding together while you write. Next, you call out each word and the children will sound them out while they write them on whiteboards. They can underline the OW in each word to make it stand out.

Sounds of OU

How to Teach the OU Sound When it Sounds Like OW



Most of the time, the sound spelling OU comes at the beginning or the middle of a word. Here are some examples:

out

pout

mouse

house

cloud

There are two ways to spell the sound of OU or OW. Well those are the two ways! Frequently the sound spelling OW comes at the end of a word or at the end of a syllable. Most frequently the only letter found after an OW word is the letter N:

cow

how

pow-der

brown

clown

Show the children the picture on the front of the card of the **mouse** running around the **house**. Maybe they are chasing a **mouse** and will **shout** when they catch it!

How to Teach the OU Sound When it Sounds Like OO



Ok, I know we JUST got through saying that OU sounds like OW! Like when you fall down and get hurt. We wrote CLOUD, LOUD, HOUSE, MOUSE, ROUND. But here comes OU and this time they sound like "OOO." Here are some words for you:

you
soup
group

I remember this sound spelling because I look at the O and it PLAINLY looks like the lid of a soup pot! The U obviously is the pot holding the soup; the same soup that you are going to eat in a group.

Later, much later, you will learn that OU says other things. But don't worry, just remember, "You eat soup in a group." You can make the lid by touching your fingertips to the tip of your thumb. Then make the pot with your hand like this:

