

English Phonics for Kids

First sounds and first words to read and spell. Letters and Sounds (2007), Phases 2–3. An adult teaches and practises with the child; Anki helps organise reviews. This is not a complete reading curriculum. The deck appears in Anki as **Sound Road**.

Choose your starting point

Teaching English at home: start with Phase 2, Set 01. Introduce one spelling and its sound together before expecting recall. Show the letters, play the sound on the answer side, say it together, then try again later. Once the child knows a word's sounds, model blending them into the word. Work through the sets at the child's pace; introduce reading before spelling. Living abroad or speaking another language at home is fine: explain meanings in your shared language.

Following school: unlock the sounds and words already taught in class. This deck uses the 2007 sequence; current programmes may differ. Ask the teacher which content fits.

If English is not your first language: use the recording as the model. Tap the sound replay chips and copy them together. The written hints are reminders, not a substitute for the voice. Check unfamiliar word meanings before practice.

Set up once

1. Import the .apkg into Anki or AnkiDroid. Use a separate collection/profile for each learner where your app supports it. The adult holds the device and grades; the child speaks, writes, or uses magnetic letters.
2. In Browse, use Cards mode. Search deck: "Sound Road" is:new -is:suspended, select those cards and suspend them. This parks unintroduced content without suspending existing reviews. Suspension is a toggle: check the selected cards' state first.
3. Unsuspend only the sound and reading cards you have introduced. For Set 01, search deck: "Sound Road" tag:set01 is:suspended. Keep spelling siblings suspended until ready. Introduce tricky words individually after explaining the known and unusual parts. Deck order does not automatically enforce readiness.
4. Use one options preset for the root deck and its sub-decks. Enable FSRS if available, with 0.90 desired retention as a starting point. Enable the available sibling-burying options to separate reading and spelling of the same word. Same-day learning siblings may still occur together.
5. Start with 3 new cards per day across the root deck, reviews before new cards, and roughly 5–10 minutes together. These are adjustable suggestions, not a prescribed learning dose. Study from **Sound Road** so earlier sets keep coming back.

A short session

- **Sounds:** try the letters first. Tap *Picture hint* when help is needed; the back has the picture, example word, recording and parent pronunciation hint. For *th* and *oo*, introduce both pronunciations before expecting both on the combined card.
- **Reading:** say the sounds and blend them. Independent sounding-out counts as success; speed is not the test. Pictures and sound replays are on the back.
- **Spelling:** play the word, repeat it, then segment and write or build it. *Ship* has three sounds: sh–i–p. Grade spelling separately from handwriting.
- **Tricky words:** decode familiar parts and explain the heart-marked unusual or not-yet-taught spelling. Do not ask the child to memorise the whole word's visual shape.

Good means an independent correct answer before revealing an answer or picture cue. Use **Again** after an error or supplied answer, then model it kindly and practise together. A repetition immediately after your model is useful practice, not independent recall. Ignore Hard/Easy while establishing the routine.

If the child stalls, supply the sound, blend together and reduce the next session's new material. Stop before frustration. Pause new cards when reviews are enough. Revisit teaching instead of drilling harder.

When one sound has more than one spelling

Audio alone cannot choose between homophones: *right/write*, *tail/tale*, *sail/sale*, *road/rode*, *pair/pear*, *hair/hare*, *knight/night* and *see/sea* illustrate the issue. Some alternatives are outside this deck. Supply a short meaning before the attempt when needed: "tail, the animal's tail". Use the taught spelling for practice; do not call a valid alternative a hearing or phonics error. Check the answer in advance if you need context. There are no recorded example sentences in this edition.

What this edition covers

48 sound cards, 282 decodable word notes with reading and spelling cards, and 18 tricky-word reading cards: **348 notes / 630 cards**. There are 50 grapheme–sound entries backed by 44 recordings; these are the deck's sound units, not a claim to teach every English sound or spelling. In particular, x and qu represent sound combinations.

The voice is Simon's English accent from England, broadly non-rhotic. Model sounds rather than letter names: sss rather than "ess". Avoid adding a full "uh" to consonants. In this accent, words such as *car* do not have a final spoken r; accent variation is normal.

th covers thin/this; *oo* covers moon/book. The Phase 3 spelling *ure* is deliberately omitted. Thirty word notes carry p4preview for adjacent-consonant extensions. Leave them suspended until ready; the tag exempts *and* and some plurals, so it is not a complete difficulty filter.

All sound cards have keyword pictures; only *pat*, *sat*, *tap* have word pictures. Abstract words such as *at* and *in* have none. The illustrations are generated artwork, not photographs.

Use matched decodable books for sentences and connected reading, plus conversation and shared stories. This edition does not teach the full Phase 4–5 progression, alternative spellings such as ay/a-e, or later spelling rules. It is independent: no Anki, DfE or school-programme endorsement, and no promised reading age or speed.

Updating without losing progress

Back up/export your collection with scheduling and media first. Import the new deck into the existing collection; do not delete the old notes. Allow updates to existing notes and note types, but do not import the publisher's learning progress or deck presets. Exact controls depend on the app/version. If notes are reported as conflicting, stop and resolve the mismatch; do not reset the child's collection. Sync afterwards if you use AnkiWeb.

Official help: [importing updates](#), [deck options](#), [review buttons](#), [AnkiDroid manual](#). Anki app purchases, where applicable, are separate from the deck.