

Understanding PALS Student Summary Sheet Spring 2018

Grades 1 & 2

PALS Task list

These are the areas that students are assessed in. They represent fundamental parts of the learning to read process and are listed on the individual student summary sheet.

Beginning Sounds: *the sound made by the first letter in a word.* [Grade 1 only]

Examples: “n” as in nest, “m” as in milk, “s” as in star

Ending Sounds: *the sound made by the last letter in a word (often more difficult for a child to hear).*
[Grade 1 only]

Examples: “b” as in cab, crib, web; “m” as in ram, seem or time.

Beg/End Sounds: *students are able to tell the difference made by beginning and ending letters in a word.*
[Grade 2 only]

Examples: hearing the “p” and “t” in pet; both the “c” and the “p” in cap.

Digraphs: *two letters that make one sound.*

Examples of consonants: “ch” as in chat, “sh” as in ship, “ck” as in sock.

Examples of vowels in at least one of the two letters: “ow” as in slow, “ew” as in crew, “oo” as in food.

Blends: *two or more consonants that are blended, but each sound may be heard in the blend.*

Examples: “bl” as in block, “gr” as in grape, “st” as in star

Short Vowels (CVC): *If a word or a syllable has only one vowel (V) between two consonants (C), the vowel is usually a short vowel sound.*

Examples: short “a” in fast, bat, cap, hand; short “e” in jet, web, tent; short “o” in pop, box, lock, hot

Nasals: *a speech sound where the air is moved mostly through the nose as letter sounds are made.*

Examples: “m” as in mitt, “n” as in nice, “ng” as in sing

CVCe: *When a word or syllable ends in a silent “e”, this is a signal that the vowel in front of it is long.*

Examples: long “a” as in make, long “i” as in kite, long “o” as in rope

Long Vowels: *when a vowel “says its name”; we hold the sound of it longer than usual.*

Examples: “a” as in ate, “e” as in meet, “o” as in goat

R-and L- Influenced: *A vowel’s sound is changed when it is followed by an “r” or an “l”. The vowel sound is neither long nor short.*

Examples: With the r-influenced vowel, the “e” sound is changed from hen to her, the “a” sound is changed from cat to car. With the l-influenced vowel, the “a” sound is rarely a “short a” – instead it is changed; “a” as in call, fall or all, “u” as in pull or bull.