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# Excellence in Writing

An effective method for teaching writing skills

## The Phonetic Zoo Teacher's Notes

by Jill Pike

Includes:

- How to use The Phonetic Zoo
- Individual Lesson explanations
- Zoo Card ideas

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# How does the Phonetic Zoo Teach Spelling?

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Welcome to Excellence in Spelling: *The Phonetic Zoo!*

Why do we call it *The Phonetic Zoo*? Well, for a couple of reasons. When you have a room full of crazy and unpredictable people, you might say, “It’s a zoo in there!” Our English spelling rules are about as crazy and unpredictable as any language on earth, and in trying to master them, one might feel that they are like wild animals—crazy, illogical and challenging. Since children love animals, the stranger the better, we managed to find for each lesson a few animals whose names match the spelling rule, jingle or hint. Thus, *The Phonetic Zoo*.

Good spelling demonstrates literacy, education and intelligence. It is important. These days, spell checkers on our computers can save many an embarrassment, but a computer is not always available, nor is it a replacement for full comprehension. Consequently, spelling remains an important skill, and the *Phonetic Zoo* can help your students to achieve Excellence in Spelling.

To teach *The Phonetic Zoo* you will need:

- Spelling and the Brain DVD
- These Teacher’s Notes
- 5 Audio CDs, labeled Disc One through Disc Five (Level C has six CDs)
- Set of large flashcards
- Set of small Zoo cards

Although you can begin immediately by reading the *How to Use this Program* section, be sure to plan a time to watch the *Spelling and the Brain* DVD to familiarize yourself with this method of spelling instruction.

## A Multi-Sensory Approach

*The Phonetic Zoo* is based on Mrs. Anna Ingham’s effective “Blended Sound-Sight Program of Learning.” Mrs. Ingham discovered fifty years ago, long before psychologists and educators began to talk of “auditory learners” vs. “visual learners,” that all students learn best when what they see is reinforced by hearing, and when what they hear is reinforced by being seen. Thus the “blending of sound and sight” is the most effective educational approach to language arts study.

With determination and persistence, Mrs. Ingham has fought the great battle against whole language extremists in Canada, almost single-handedly, and schools that have used her program consistently have virtually eliminated reading problems. We have attempted to develop a spelling program which effectively recreates Mrs. Ingham’s Sound City spelling rules using the theme of animals and a zoo.

Although not all of the possible spelling rules are presented in *The Phonetic Zoo*, enough of them are provided in a fun way that students will learn to look for patterns and discover other rules as they explore spelling. This program provides your student with enough rules to be successful, but not too many to be discouraged.

## A Brief Review of Basic Neurophysiology:

Spelling is the correct retrieval of sequentially stored, virtually random bits of information. Therefore, there are two activities involved in spelling: correctly storing information in the brain, and correctly retrieving that information. Those who teach spelling should not only understand how the brain works, but must also use that understanding to create an optimal learning approach for children who may have very different learning styles.

The brain acquires information through the sensory pathways: sight, hearing, touching, tasting and smelling. Once information gets to the brain, it is stored when brain cells (neurons) send electrochemical impulses to other brain cells. Connections are made and “circuits” then reinforced by three variables: frequency, intensity and duration. In simpler terms, humans learn best by seeing, hearing or feeling things that are either very frequent, very intense or very long-lasting. There is no other way.

A student who is strong visually will be more able to learn spelling from textbooks and worksheets, since his visual pathway may be the most reliable and visual input will be the most accurate for him. A student who is strong auditorily will be more able to learn spelling from hearing the rules and words, something that a textbook is unable to facilitate. A child who is strong kinesthetically wants to feel and move, anchoring information to the brain through the body.

Most toddlers are primarily kinesthetic, secondarily auditory and lastly visual in learning style. Most older people are exactly the opposite. For young students just learning to read, write, spell and do arithmetic, auditory input is still extremely important, and must not be neglected by the teacher. Unfortunately, textbooks and worksheets are exclusively visual, and often do not provide the most efficient method of study.

### **Spelling is Sequential**

Words consist of letters, but if you do not have your letters in the correct order, your spelling is incorrect. Virtually every teacher or parent has seen children who will write a word like: “waer” or “gril” or “turtel,” in which they did get all the letters, but because the order was wrong, the word is hard to decipher. Spelling is sequential because the order of letters (not just getting the right ones) determines the word. How can sequence be taught most effectively?

When you see a word, “special” for example, you are forced by nature to see it all at once. Since the letters go into your brain simultaneously, there is no sequential storage of the information. Vision is a global sense. There is a spatial storage, but not a sequential one. Consequently, if a student has even a mild dyslexia or difficulty in processing abstract visual information, we cannot be assured that the information is being stored properly (i.e. correct sequence) in the brain. All the letters are seen at the same moment.

However, when a word is spelled out loud, s - p - e - c - i - a - l, the letters go into the brain one at a time, in a precise sequence. In fact, it can *only* be received in sequence. Therefore, since spelling is sequential in nature, auditory input is the best possible way to accurately store spelling information in the brain. Words correctly stored will more likely be correctly retrieved.

Coupling the auditory, letter-by-letter sequencing with the presentation of letter groups and the unique sounds they make, *The Phonetic Zoo* effectively helps students learn to spell.

### **Maximizing Frequency**

Information is stored in the brain through sensory stimulation, given with frequency, intensity, and duration. As the same type of stimulation is given again and again, the neural connections which store that information are strengthened and, with enough frequency, the connections become permanent and learning is complete. In teaching spelling, the real trick involves the accurate transmission (and reception) of the information with enough frequency to make the knowledge permanent and second nature. However, consistency is difficult to attain.

Thus, the use of audio recordings, combined with flashcards and dramatic images, provides for a consistent and organized presentation of information, in a format that allows individual study and an individualized rate of progress through the materials. Students can listen repeatedly, hear the same thing consistently, do the same test each day and continue until a perfect score has been achieved. For the best possible effect, require that the score of 100% be achieved twice. This will ensure that each student, through maximized frequency, learns the lessons thoroughly.

### **How long will it take to complete all 47 lessons?**

This will vary greatly from student to student. We do not suggest any specific time line for completion, but we do insist on a goal of complete mastery. Therefore, the student should continue to repeat the same lesson everyday until a score of 100% is achieved twice in a row. Some lessons are harder than others. While one student may achieve the 100% score twice in three or four days, others may take five, seven, even ten or more days. This is not a problem. Simply do a lesson every day and you will see progress. With one lesson every week, the program lasts an entire year. For slower students, it may last even longer.

Using the Zoo cards to review past spelling rules as they apply to new words will help students retain the spelling information stored in their brains. A template to create a phonetic zoo, which uses the small Zoo cards as cage doors, is located in the Appendix. By displaying the zoo in a classroom, teachers will have a ready-made review center easily accessible to students looking for spelling reminders.

### **Support**

If you have any problems or questions as you begin to use *The Phonetic Zoo* materials, don't hesitate to give us a call or send a question or comment by email. We are committed to your success with this program, and we will do everything in our power to assist you in implementing it effectively. Periodic updates will be emailed or published in our newsletter, and if you have an idea, experience, problem, or have a question to share, send it in! These teacher notes are the product of this kind of dialog.

As we correct errors and make updates to the printed material, we will keep you informed, sending replacement material as it may be appropriate. If you ever scratch or lose a disc, we will happily replace it for a minimal fee; just call the Excellence in Writing office. If you purchased this program from a retailer other than Excellence in Writing, drop us a line with your address, phone and email so that we can keep in touch directly. Our goal is continued support.

### **Guarantee**

If you use this program and your students do not dramatically improve their spelling, we will happily refund your purchase price. If you just don't like these materials, for any reason whatsoever, you may of course return them for a full refund. Your satisfaction is our guarantee.

### **Special Thanks to:**

Dean Anderson, Livingston, MT (Our superb recording engineer)  
Marcia McCarry, Livingston, MT (Another fine voice)  
Scott Oplinger, Moscow, ID (Marvelous graphics assistance)  
Shirley George, Edmonton, AB (Important spelling rules advice)  
and most especially to:  
Anna G. Ingham, C.M., Yorkton, SK (Who made it all possible)  
and all Blended Sound-Sight staff and teachers everywhere.

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# How to use the program:

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## Each level of The Phonetic Zoo spelling program includes:

- Spelling and the Brain DVD
- 5 Audio CDs, labeled Disc One through Disc Five (level C has six CDs)
- Set of large flashcards
- Set of small Zoo cards

You will find that all your materials, along with your own personal CD player and headphones, will fit conveniently in a shoebox. Putting the large flashcards on a ring and keeping the Zoo cards together with a rubber-band or in a small plastic bag will keep them from becoming misplaced.

### 1. Watch the Spelling and the Brain DVD.

This will reinforce the foundational concepts mentioned above and familiarize you with the “how to” of the program described below. Although there is no reason to prevent your students from watching the DVD with you, there is also no particular reason why they should. The DVD is for the parent or teacher.

### 2. Present the rule of Lesson One to your student(s), using the large flash card.

The flash cards can be used for two primary purposes: 1) For you to use as you preview and review the lessons with your student; and 2) for your student to use to study independently if he wishes. All the words for all three levels of *The Phonetic Zoo* are contained on the flash cards, so they are useful for working with students of mixed ages and abilities.

Read the rule out loud (from the back of the card), and have your student read and spell out loud the three words on the front of the card which correspond to the chosen level. Briefly discuss how the animal name shown on the front meets the rule of the lesson. The teacher’s notes include a deeper explanation of the spelling rules, some history behind the rule, and additional commentary to add to your understanding of spelling.

### 3. Give the student the corresponding small Zoo card.

The front of the Zoo card includes the lesson title and animals whose names illustrate the spelling rule. On the back of the card is the rule or jingle that accompanies each lesson. The Zoo cards will serve not only as a reminder of the rule and animals which correspond with it, but also as a motivational tool because as your students progress through the lessons, they will see their animal collection grow.

Students may wish to display their Zoo cards on their bedroom or classroom wall, or they may wish to use the cards as zoo cage doors. Complete instructions and zoo cage templates are included in Appendix 5.

### 4. Set up the student with headphones, paper and pen.

**Why headphones?** Students who use this program with headphones will reap the greatest benefits. With headphones, the sound and the experience it provides are close to the ear and to the brain. There are no distractions or auditory interferences. It is a personal and intimate activity, and greatly assists in making the goal of mastering a spelling lesson even more of an individual challenge. They will develop a strong sense of “ownership” of the program, and enjoy the change in routine it provides. Use headphones!

**Paper.** Students should prepare their paper by numbering 1-15 on the left side, double-spaced (leaving a blank space between lines). Since College Ruled notebook paper usually contains 32 lines, students should be able to fit all 15 words on one side of the paper. It is helpful for the student to write the lesson number and the “time” that it has been done (i.e. Lesson 3, 4th time).

Name: _____
Lesson #: _____ Attempt # _____
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

**Pen, not pencil.** For a detailed explanation on the benefits of pen over pencil, see the article “Convert to Pens” in the Article/Newsletter section of the Support tab at [www.excellenceinwriting.com](http://www.excellenceinwriting.com).

#### 5. The student listens to the introduction on Disc One, Track One.

The student will need to listen to the introduction just once. Once the introduction is complete, be sure that he knows how to use the CD player to skip to the track he needs for that lesson. Corrections for each lesson are on a separate track. The student can look on the back of the Phonetic Zoo CD case to see which disc and track number correspond to each lesson.

#### 6. The student takes the test.

At first, the lesson may proceed too rapidly and the student might be frustrated by not being able to keep up. Explain that this is normal and encourage him to pause the CD at any time. Each lesson is less than 10 minutes long.

Even if he misspells many words the first time through, don't worry. Tell him to relax. Speed and accuracy will improve with repetition. Place the emphasis on how many are “right,” *not* on how many are “wrong.” Be enthusiastic about his progress.

#### 7. The student makes corrections on the test using the next track of the CD.

After the student has tried to write all fifteen words, he should attempt to correct those words himself. He should re-write the correction word next to his attempt at the word. Thus, his spelling test will have each word written twice.

Determine a method to mark which words were spelled incorrectly—perhaps a single strike-through or an *X* adjacent to each incorrect word. You may find that your student might not always catch all his errors. That is OK. After he has finished with his corrections, you may like to check as well, and silently write in the correct spelling next to his attempt. Smile a lot, and don't feel you have to continuously point out his errors. Frequency will do its job. Gradually his speed and ability to write the words and letters he hears will improve.

Strong visual learners may be happier to correct their lessons by using the list on the back of the card along with the recorded corrections on CD.

#### 8. The student takes the test every day until he achieves 100% twice in a row.

Our goal is excellence in spelling. 100% twice in a row ensures mastery of each list. Interestingly, this goal is not usually discouraging to students. Instead, it becomes a challenge to pursue.

#### 9. Personal Spelling (Lessons 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 & 47)

This is a vitally important part of the *Excellence in Spelling* program. Every fifth lesson is a Personal Spelling lesson. The flash cards for these lessons have blank spaces, and the verbal instructions on the CD direct the student to collect words during Lessons 1-4 for use with Lesson 5, Personal Spelling. These words are to be gathered from errors in written compositions as well as vocabulary from other language arts curricula. For your convenience, Appendix 3 contains extra word lists based on additional spelling rules, and Appendix 4 lists 240 frequently misspelled words. These are also excellent choices for Personal Spelling lessons.

#### 10. The Final Exam

There is a Final Exam at the end of each level. Each is quite long, using words from each rule. The scoring guide indicates whether the student has accomplished the goals of the program and is ready to progress to the next level, or should repeat this same level again. In preparation for the final exam, you may want to “spot check” the student with words from different lessons, using the flash cards to help. The instructions for taking and evaluating the final exam are included in the teacher's notes.

Name:	Sally Smith
Lesson #	1
Attempt #	2
1.	<del>brain</del> brain
2.	<del>played</del> played
3.	<del>chaind</del> chained
4.	<del>railway</del> railway
5.	<del>pail</del> pail
6.	<del>sailed</del> sailed
7.	<del>train</del> train
8.	<del>painful</del> painful
9.	<del>tray</del> tray
10.	<del>paint</del> paint
11.	<del>raisen</del> raisin
12.	<del>trailing</del> trailing
13.	<del>grain</del> grain
14.	<del>always</del> always
15.	<del>contain</del> contain
# Correct:	13

## A Brief History of the Blended Sound-Sight Program

---

Anna Ingham began her career as a school teacher in 1935 teaching in a one-room rural schoolhouse. Her forty pupils ranged in age from five to fifteen years of age, in ability from slow to exceptional, in work ethic from sporadic to diligent, and in grade from one to ten. It is amazing that school teachers could accomplish anything under those conditions, but Mrs. Ingham determined to make it work. She quickly discovered that she had to design a system, organization, and management in which the children learned and were happy to do so. Using the Golden Rule—“Do unto others, as you would that they should do unto you”—Mrs. Ingham organized her students into multi-grade teams where they could encourage one another. This freed her to become a facilitator to keep the learning process moving forward, the learning environment lively, and the learning goals of each child near and clear.

After many years in the rural schools, Mrs. Ingham moved into a single-grade city classroom where she had the opportunity to focus on first grade students. The most monumental hurdle for Mrs. Ingham in this school was reintroducing phonics into an educational system enamored with the “Look and Say” method. Teachers were encouraged to use words to teach letter sounds and focus on the whole over the parts. Mrs. Ingham discovered that this method did not work. Her students couldn’t hear the letter sounds when they were mixed up in a word—it was like trying to hear a conversation with a radio blaring. So, Mrs. Ingham simply closed her classroom door and turned the “radio” off. Creating all her own materials, she began to develop her Sound City where both individual letters and letter combinations lived and talked. She did not go back to the archaic method of letter and blend drills completely divorced from words. Instead, she used poetry, pantomimes, and play to integrate phonics and words. Her excited students explored Sound City every day, discovering how all those sounds worked together in words. Words were never neglected, in fact they were richly integrated in literature and poetry. Mrs. Ingham blended the critical phonetic sounds with the whole word sight method, the Blended Sound-Sight Method, which enabled all her students to both sound out words and read fluently when they graduated from her first grade classroom.

The key to the success of the Blended Sound-Sight system, however, was not Mrs. Ingham’s teaching tools, but her choice to begin with the Golden Rule. She was sensitive to children’s needs, consistent, a good listener, firm with love, as well as a wise counselor to each individual. After providing her students with the basic tools of learning, she showed them how to work respectfully and quietly both as a group and independently. Thus, Mrs. Ingham was able to adequately provide each individual and each group the attention the students needed to learn. The results astounded visiting teachers. After observing Anna’s classroom of 31 first grade students, one teacher wrote:

*On our arrival what stood out in our minds was that all the pupils were reading with a feeling of joy and accomplishment after only eight weeks of school.... As we stood there observing the class move independently about the room with efficiency and respect, we were spell-bound. The children seemed to be working toward goals which they understood and were attainable.... By spring we marveled at the children’s spelling ability.... Mrs. Ingham explained that because of the controlled reader vocabulary so familiar to the children [frequency], because of the many devices such as Sound City, Jingles, Jail and Ghost, and because spelling was integrated into all subjects including poetry, good spelling became a natural outcome of the children’s learning.*

Anna’s dedication to giving each student what he needed by providing him with clear, incremental goals coupled with consistency and firm love produced phenomenal results. The independence and joy of achievement that she fostered in the one room schoolhouse transferred beautifully into the graded classroom.

The spelling rules and jingles presented in *The Phonetic Zoo* come from decades of teaching experience by Anna Ingham, her daughter Shirley George, and her nephew James B. Webster. Together, they refined Sound City and created fun and memorable ways to learn so many spelling rules. Andrew Pudewa counts it a great privilege to have been able to work with all three of these great teachers and, together with Dr. Webster, preserve their hard work in *The Phonetic Zoo*.



# Lesson 1: ai and ay

This lesson helps students distinguish between using ai or ay in words. Remind students that the sound of long-a could be created a different way (using a vowel-consonant-silent e, for example), but this lesson will focus on the choice between ai and ay.

If you would like to create a kind of Sound City as Andrew Pudewa described on the *Spelling and the Brain* DVD, you can start now. Your small Zoo Cards are perfect to use as “doors” to the word “cages.” In Appendix 5 you will find six zoo pages each containing 6-8 cages. Your student can place their Zoo card over the appropriate cage to make a door using tape on the side to create a hinge and write the sample words on the lines in the cage. To review, you can knock on the cage doors, open them, read the rule, and look at the sample words. Your students will look forward to finishing their zoo by collecting all the animal cage doors. For ease of reference, the cards have been sorted according to category (A Cages, E Cages, Consonant Cages, etc.).

## Rule, Jingle or Hint:

When a-i says “ā” as in *claim* and *chain*,  
It comes in the middle as in *train* and *pain*.  
But when a-y says “ā” as in *jay* and *portray*,  
It comes at the end. See *decay* and *delay*.  
Don’t let suffixes *betray* you as in *decayed*,  
The root never changes. See *playful* and *played*.

Since this is the first lesson, be sure to explain to your student how to:

- Set up their paper
- Use the CD player with headphones
- Take the test
- Re-write the corrections
- Compare spellings
- Take the same test daily until they achieve 100% twice in a row.

## Discussion points:

- Discuss the difference between a root word and a suffix. The suffixes used in these lists are: -ed, -ing, -ful, -s, -ly, and -al. You may want to begin a Suffix Chart for your classroom. In spelling, students should identify the root word, spell it, and then add the suffix (examples: *play/played*, *pain/painful*, *always/always*). You may want to have your student go through the list and underline all the roots and circle the suffixes. Take note of the roots that have the a-y before the suffix.
- Review the pronunciation of the suffix -ed. Sometimes it says “ed,” sometimes “t,” and sometimes just “d.” Don’t let your ear fool you (as in *chained*). Even when students hear “d” or “t,” they need to put -ed.
- Also review compound words where two complete words are combined (as in *railway*).
- In the Level C list, take note that *painstakingly* uses the vowel-consonant-e pattern to make the a long in *stake*. However, when the -ing suffix is added, the silent e is dropped.

## Word Lists

### A

brain  
played  
chained  
railway  
pail  
sailed  
train  
painful  
tray  
paint  
raisin  
trailing  
grain  
always  
contain

### B

claimed  
slain  
strain  
Wednesday  
complaining  
mailed  
hailed  
regaining  
painter  
restrained  
complaint  
delayed  
sailor  
grained  
decayed

### C

ailing  
complainant  
plaintiff  
ailment  
slay  
proclaimed  
maim  
railway  
painstakingly  
rainproof  
claimant  
faithfully  
tailored  
portrayal  
constraint

### Example Words:

A: brain, always, pain  
B: wailing, decay, sailor  
C: ailment, portrayal, tailored

Although all three word lists (A, B, and C) are included here, students will work through only one level at a time as they progress through the 47 lessons.

If you are not sure you are starting with the correct level, there is a placement test in Appendix 1 of these notes. If you determine that you should have purchased a different level, contact Excellence in Writing and they will gladly work out an exchange.

## Appendix 1: Phonetic Zoo Placement Test

1. This program is designed for children nine years old and up.
2. There are three levels of the *Excellence in Spelling* program:
  - Level A (primary)
  - Level B (intermediate)
  - Level C (highest)
3. Do not allow your child to see or study these tests before you give them, as it would interfere with the accuracy of the placement.
4. When you administer the test to the children, do not repeat them in sentences or definitions unless absolutely necessary. Believe it or not, research shows that using spelling words in sentences actually lowers a child's score.

By giving your child one or more of the three spelling tests below, you can determine at which level he should begin.

For a child in grades 3-5, give Test I.  
For students grade 6 and higher, begin with Test II.

### Spelling Placement Test I – for children in Grades 3, 4 & 5 - level A

spend	guest	entrance	wait	loss	hungry	clerk	nephew
enjoy	flight	importance	trouble	election	husband	through	nineteen
visit	travel	carried	view	department	amount	white	vacation
usual	rapid	repair	prison	obtain	human	degree	room
complaint	beautiful	clock	helper	family	beg	noticed	passenger
auto	favor	empire	engine	fortune	kitchen	lining	quiet
awful	(favour)	mayor					

Scoring Test I: Missed 0-6: give test III.  
Missed 7-16: give test II.  
Missed 17 or more: begin with the Phonetic Zoo level A.

### Spelling Placement Test II – for children in Grades 6 and up - level B

guess	victim	associate	national	absence	ache	burglar	compete
circular	estimate	automobile	recent	conference	amusement	business	deceive
argument	accident	various	required	Wednesday	approval	changeable	discoveries
volume	invitation	decide	refer	really	banana	chimney	electricity
organize	accept	entitle	minute	celebration	biscuits	choir	error
summon	impossible	political	ought	folks	bruised	commence	exceptions
official	concern						

Scoring Test II: Missed 0-6: begin with the Phonetic Zoo level C  
Missed 7-32: begin with the Phonetic Zoo level B.  
Missed 33 or more: begin with the Phonetic Zoo Level A.

### Spelling Placement Test III – High School and beyond - level C

immediate	committee	employees	opportunity	familiar	proceed	calendar	parliament
convenient	architecture	exquisite	emergency	appreciate	cordially	decision	precipice
receipt	development	peculiar	persevere	sincerely	character	accuracy	restaurant
preliminary	beneficial	financier	repeated	athletic	February	digestible	seized
disappoint	contagious	intelligent	rinsed	extreme	antique	mucilage	surgeon
especially	artificial	mistletoe	treachery	practical	bicycle	orchestra	thoroughly
annual	distillery						

Scoring Test III: Missed 33 or more: begin with the Phonetic Zoo level B,  
Missed less than 32: begin with the Phonetic Zoo level C

## Appendix 2: Six Syllable Types

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### **Closed Syllable**

The closed syllable contains a single vowel and ends in a consonant, and the vowel has a short sound. Examples are *bat*, *in*, and *Tom*. This is usually the first syllable type taught to students.

### **Open Syllable**

The open syllable contains a single vowel which is found at the end of the syllable. These vowels have their long sound. Examples are *be*, *my*, *go*, and the first syllable in *si-lent*, *be-gin*, and *o-pen*. Note that words can contain both open and closed syllables—*si-* (open) *-lent* (closed).

### **Vowel-consonant-e Syllable**

The vowel-consonant-e syllable is usually found at the end of the word. Most of us learned it as the “silent e rule.” The final e is silent and makes the next vowel before it long, as in *tame* and *beside*. This is often the second syllable type taught to students.

### **Diphthong Syllable**

A diphthong syllable contains a vowel pair that together create a new sound, as in *mouth*, *each*, and *brought*. There are many *Excellence in Spelling* rules related to this syllable, such as the “Two Vowels Walking,” oi/oy, Radio O-U-G-H, etc. My list of diphthongs includes: ai, au, aw, ay, ea<sub>3</sub>, ee, eigh, ew, ey<sub>2</sub>, ie, oa, oo<sub>2</sub>, oi, oy, ou, ow, ue, ui, ight, ough<sub>6</sub>.

### **Consonant-le Syllable**

The consonant-le syllable is found at the end of words, such as *little*, *struggle*, and *tumble*. The Blended Sound-Sight program called this “The Syllable E” since all syllables require a vowel. The silent e in this syllable serves that purpose.

### **Vowel-r Syllable**

The vowel-r syllable is also called the r-controlled syllable because the r controls the sound of the vowel that comes before it, as in *car*, *northern*, *bird*, and *nurse*.

If you are looking for a program to teach these syllable types along with all the spelling rules to a younger student (beginning reader), check out: [www.all-about-spelling.com](http://www.all-about-spelling.com).

## Appendix 5: A Zoo for the Zoo Cards

Every time your student begins a new lesson, he should receive that lesson's Zoo card to add to his collection. The front of these cards illustrate the rule with an animal whose name uses the spelling rule. The rule or jingle is printed on the back. These cards can be used both as motivational rewards and as reminder cards.

Your student can display the cards on the wall of his room or classroom, place them in plastic baseball card holders, or you can paste or print the following pages onto card stock and create six pages serving as a "Phonetic Zoo." The Zoo cards then become "doors" to the "cages." Your student's zoo can reside in a notebook, be pasted on poster board, or taped on a wall for easy reference when a spelling rule needs to be reinforced.

### Phonetic Zoo Pages

The following Phonetic Zoo pages are sorted according to vowels and consonants. The rule category is listed on each page with lesson numbers printed in each box. Thus, the rules for the letter A are all in a row, all the E rules are on one page, and so forth, such that a student can quickly find a rule to review if desired. This is essentially how Anna Ingham organized her "Sound City."

Once your student has his Zoo card and has located the lesson number, he can copy the three reminder words for his level from the large lesson card onto the three lines on the Zoo page. For example, in lesson 1, level A, a student would copy *brain*, *always*, and *pain*; a level B student would copy *wailing*, *decay*, and *sailor*; and a level C student would copy *ailment*, *portrayal*, and *tailored*.

Your student can then take his Zoo card and use it as a "door" to the "cage" by taping the card along the left side. For review, you could knock on the "doors" and then open them to reveal the rule and the sample words. This is a good way to review as he gets closer and closer to the final exam.

This photo depicts one way a student could display his Zoo cards using the following pages. You could also use the center part to hang writing tips or other spelling information. If you wish to create this exact poster, the rest of the printouts are in Appendix 6.

Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3
Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6
	← "O" Cages →	
Lesson 7	Lesson 8	Lesson 9

