

LIT KIT 8: DIPHTHONG SYLLABLES

Phonics

Kit 8 helps your child read diphthongs (pronounced “dif-thongs”) as gliding vowel sounds. Diphthongs involve two vowel sounds blended together within the same syllable. Common words that use diphthongs are “boy,” “found,” “town” and “point.”

WHAT’S INSIDE?

This kit includes nine decodable books covering three important skills:

- **Skill 1: oi, oy.** Your child will practice reading diphthongs that make the “oy” sound, as in “oil” or “toy.”
- **Skill 2: ou, ow.** This skill focuses on reading words with the “ow” diphthong sound, such as “outside” or “cow.”
- **Skill 3: au, aw.** Your child will learn to read words with the “aw” sound, as in “auto” or “hawk.”

HOW TO USE THIS KIT:

READ

Refer to the back of this guide for more on reading decodable texts together.

- **Start with Skill 1:** Begin by reading books that focus on the diphthong sounds “oi” and “oy.” Help your child recognize words like “oil” or “toy,” and practice blending the vowel sounds together to form the gliding sound.
- **Move to Skill 2:** Move on to the “ou” and “ow” diphthongs. Encourage your child to read words like “outside” and “cow,” and practice saying them aloud while focusing on how the vowel sounds glide together.
- **Practice Skill 3:** The final skill focuses on the sound “au” and “aw.” Read words like “auto” and “hawk” together and discuss how “a” is not a short “a” sound or a long “a” sound. The “au” and “aw” work together to make a new sound.

EXTEND

Try this writing activity to reinforce the skills in this kit!

- **What’s That Sound?** Pick 3–4 diphthong words that could be used as sound effects or dramatic expressions (e.g., boing, ouch, wow, boy, squawk, howl).
 1. Draw 3–4 comic strip panels using boxes on a sheet of paper.
 2. Tell a short story in pictures and speech bubbles. Each panel should use at least one diphthong word—either as:
 - a character’s dialogue (“Ouch! That toy hit my foot!”),
 - a sound effect (“Boing!”),
 - or a labeled object (“The owl swooped down.”).
 3. Underline or color-code the diphthong words in the story to help your child visualize the target patterns.
 4. Read the comic together aloud, emphasizing the gliding diphthong sounds.

TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS:

- **Spot the Diphthongs:** While reading, ask your child to find words with diphthongs and practice sounding them out. Talk about how the vowels work together to create a gliding sound.
- **Practice in Real Life:** Look for examples of diphthong words around you, like in street signs or food labels.
- **Stretch It Out:** Encourage your child to slowly stretch out the diphthongs and notice how their mouths move as the sounds glide.
- **Repeat for Mastery:** Reread books and play games where you point out and practice diphthongs to help reinforce the skills.



Learn more about our
Lit Kit Phonics collection.
<https://www.slpl.org/lit-kit/>



ST. LOUIS’ ORIGINAL SEARCH ENGINE®

HOW TO USE DECODABLE TEXTS:

Decodable texts give children the opportunity to practice the phonics strategies they have learned in the classroom. When children read these books, they use their blending and segmenting abilities to decode the words in the text.

Before reading the book:

1. Look at the cover and ask your child to read the title or read the title with your child.
2. Ask your child what they think the book will be about.
3. Look at the inside front covers and back covers of the book to see if there is a practice word list.
4. Ask your child to read these words first as a review before reading the book.

During reading:

1. Encourage your child to slide their index finger under the words as they read them.
2. If your child gets stuck on a word, wait a few seconds before you step in to help.
3. If your child needs help or asks for help, try 1-2 of the strategies below to help them figure out the word.

"Look at the letters in the word. What letters do you see? Can you say the sounds?"

(This prompt encourages children to focus on the printed letters and connect them to sounds.)

"Say the sounds in the word slowly as you slide your finger under them."

(If your child struggles with saying the sounds, you can say the sounds and ask them to repeat them after you.)

"Blend the sounds together as you slide your finger under them."

(After saying each sound separately, your child can try to put the sounds together.)

"I will read this word, and you say the word back to me."

(Use this prompt for words your child does not know and cannot sound out after trying the other prompts.)

After your child figures out the word they were stuck on, make sure they go back to the beginning of the sentence to build fluency and improve comprehension of the text.

If your child reads a word incorrectly and they don't correct themselves, ask them to go back to that word. You can help them with any of the suggested prompts above. Remember to keep it positive. If you or your child start to feel frustrated, it might be time for a break!

Please keep this insert inside the kit.

