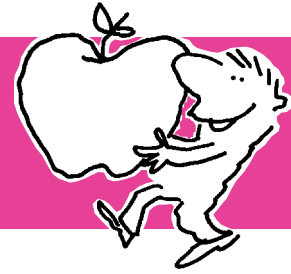


# Here's an Instant Activity for September 21, 2009



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## STRATEGY FOR SPELLING SUCCESS

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For most learners, spelling well doesn't just happen. It is the result of a conscientious spelling and word-skill curriculum that:

1. provides a menu of skill-building activities that range in sophistication to teach critical concepts at a student's own level,
2. uses assessment to gather information to target word study to the specific words each student has not learned from among all previously introduced words in the program, as well as to identify skills not yet mastered,
3. equips teachers with guidelines for spelling expectations in everyday writing that increase as students develop as writers, making the classroom a rehearsal for real-world writing, *and*
4. proposes multiple opportunities to engage parents in their child's acquisition of spelling skills.

This Instant Activity helps teachers achieve item number 1 above—and item number 4, if the activity is assigned as homework.

Meeting state standards is a priority of Sitton Spelling and Word Skills®. Instant Activities further support skills and concepts reflected in state standards.



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## LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

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Approximately Grade 3



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## PURPOSE

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To provide practice with /ā/ spelling patterns

Skills: /ā/ spelling patterns, spelling, vocabulary development, compound words, homophones, multiple meanings



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## SUGGESTED USE

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Use this Instant Activity with the Level 3 Sourcebook (2nd or 3rd Edition), Unit 3, Activity 1A, page 22.



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## TEACHING DIRECTIONS

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Write on the board: *The lady played the game in the rain.* Ask students to identify the /ā/ words. (*lady, played, game, rain*) Then point out the most common spelling patterns for /ā/. (*a* at the end of a syllable, as in *lady; ai; ay; a-consonant-e*)

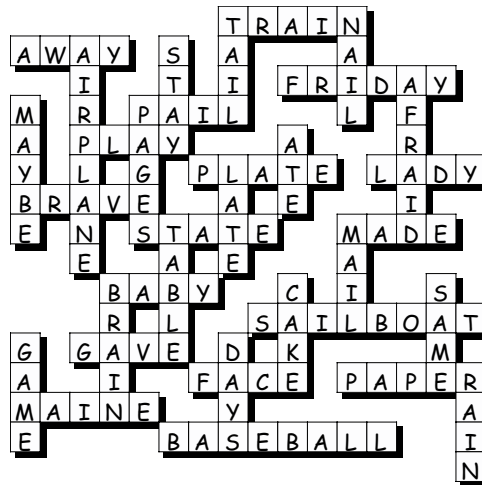
Have students work in small groups to find and write words for each /ā/ spelling pattern. Create a chart with students for the frequent spelling patterns for /ā/. Label one column “other” or “surprise” for irregular /ā/ spellings. Use words from this lesson to begin the chart. Have students add more words to the chart over time.

Print the Instant Activity and distribute a copy to each student. Discuss the activity to ensure that students know what is expected. Then ask them to complete it at home or at school.



## FOLLOW-UP

Review the answers to the crossword puzzle. Discuss the meanings of unfamiliar words.



Next, have students share their stories and pictures from the Apple Activity.

Use the puzzle words for more activities:

- Have students identify the compound words in the crossword puzzle. (*airplane, baseball, sailboat*) Then have them find and write more compound words with the /ā/ sound. Extend the activity to more compound words that contain long vowel sounds.
- Ask students for the definition of *homophones*. (words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings) Challenge students to find the homophones in the puzzle. Have them write the homophones and their partners: *ate/eight, away/aweigh, days/daze, made/maid, mail/male, Maine/main/mane, pail/pale, rain/rein/reign, tail/tale*. Discuss the meanings of unfamiliar words.
- Write *play* on the board. Select a student to use *play* in a sentence. Then challenge students to identify another meaning for *play*. If students need support, offer these sentences: We like to *play* soccer after school. I'm going to try out for a part in the school *play*. Have students identify more words with multiple meanings.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION


For more information about Sitton Spelling and Word Skills®, visit [www.epsbooks.com/sittonspelling](http://www.epsbooks.com/sittonspelling).

# Build Skills and Word Experiences



Name \_\_\_\_\_, Super Speller

## Puzzle Fun with Long a Words!

Use the clues to complete the puzzle. All answer words contain the vowel sound you hear in .

The crossword puzzle grid consists of 30 numbered starting points for words:

- 1: Down, 4 letters
- 2: Down, 3 letters
- 3: Across, 4 letters
- 4: Across, 3 letters
- 5: Down, 4 letters
- 6: Across, 5 letters
- 7: Across, 4 letters
- 8: Down, 4 letters
- 9: Across, 4 letters
- 10: Across, 4 letters
- 11: Down, 3 letters
- 12: Across, 3 letters
- 13: Across, 3 letters
- 14: Across, 4 letters
- 15: Down, 4 letters
- 16: Across, 3 letters
- 17: Across, 3 letters
- 18: Down, 4 letters
- 19: Across, 3 letters
- 20: Down, 3 letters
- 21: Down, 3 letters
- 22: Across, 5 letters
- 23: Down, 3 letters
- 24: Across, 4 letters
- 25: Across, 4 letters
- 26: Across, 4 letters
- 27: Across, 4 letters
- 28: Across, 4 letters
- 29: Down, 4 letters
- 30: Across, 7 letters



Some long a words are spelled differently. Write a story using these long a words. Then draw a picture to go with your story.

break

eight

they

neighbor

great

# Build Skills and Word Experiences



## Clues for Puzzle Fun with Long *a* Words

### ACROSS

1. It runs on tracks; a caboose is at the end
3. leave; go \_\_\_\_\_
6. day between Thursday and Saturday
9. another word for *bucket*
10. opposite of *work*
12. dish
14. opposite of *gentleman*
15. courageous
16. Oklahoma is one.
18. past tense of *make*
19. infant, newborn
22. boat that uses the wind to move
24. past tense of *give*
26. where your nose, eyes, and mouth are
27. You write on this.
29. Its capital is Augusta.
30. You play this with a bat and ball.

### DOWN

1. A dog wags this.
2. Use a hammer to pound this in.
4. It flies in the sky.
5. opposite of *go*
7. scared or frightened
8. possibly or perhaps
9. A book is made up of lots of these.
11. past tense of *eat*
13. opposite of *early*
17. You sit down to eat at a \_\_\_\_\_.
18. It is delivered by the post office.
19. You use this to think.
20. It is served with ice cream at a birthday party.
21. opposite of *different*
23. "Hide and Seek" is one.
25. Seven of these are in a week.
28. water that falls from the sky