

LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Phonics

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| Category | Phonics | Title | Phonics Book 3 – Puzzle ABC, Short Vowel A |
| Ages | 4-7 | Theme | Short /a/ Sound in CVC Words |

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

In this book, children practise the short /a/ sound in CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words through eight fun jigsaw puzzles. Each puzzle piece has a letter on it, and children fit the pieces together to make a word that matches the picture silhouette — making phonics feel like a game rather than a lesson.

Children are encouraged to connect the short /a/ sound to Apple House from previous books. If children wonder why the letter 'a' makes the /a/ sound, explain gently that 'a' has many sounds in English which they will learn one by one — for now, this book focuses on the short /a/ in apple.

TARGET WORDS — SHORT /A/ CVC WORDS

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| cat | bag | pan | cab | fan | map | can | cap |
| /at/ | /ag/ | /an/ | /ab/ | /an/ | /ap/ | /an/ | /ap/ |

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will be able to:

- Recognise and produce the short /a/ sound
- Identify and name the consonant sounds in each CVC word
- Blend consonant + short vowel + consonant to form complete words
- Match spoken words to picture silhouettes
- Complete a Ladder Game matching quiz using CVC words

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Guess what is in each silhouette

Before solving each puzzle, ask your child to look at the silhouette picture and guess what it might be. This builds anticipation and encourages children to connect the visual clue to a word they already know. The eight silhouettes in this book are: cat, bag, pan, cab, fan, map, can, and cap.

2. Solve the jigsaw puzzles

Under each silhouette, there are three puzzle pieces — each with a letter on it. Encourage your child to fit the pieces together to complete the word. Once the puzzle is solved, ask them to say each letter in order, then read the whole word aloud. Celebrate every completed puzzle!

3. Check the consonant sounds

Each CVC word contains two consonants. Ask your child to identify the phonics sound for each consonant in the word. For example: in 'cat', the consonants are c (k sound) and t (t sound). In 'bag', the consonants are b (b sound) and g (g sound). This step reinforces the consonant sounds practised in Phonics Books 1 and 2.

4. Blend from the end — vowel + final consonant first

Help your child blend each word by starting with the short vowel and final consonant together, then adding the beginning consonant. For example: say '/at/' first, then add 'c' to make 'cat'. Practise all eight combinations: /at/, /ag/, /an/, /ab/, /an/, /ap/, /an/, /ap/. This end-first blending strategy helps children hear the short /a/ sound clearly before building the full word.

5. Complete the Ladder Game quiz

At the end of the book, children complete a Ladder Game matching activity. Starting at the line next to each picture, children follow the path — going up or down when the line splits — until they reach the matching word. An answer sheet is provided on the next page for easy checking. Encourage your child to complete this independently as a confidence-building review of all eight words.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Ask your child to think of other words that have the short /a/ sound in the middle — for example: hat, sat, bat, rat, mat, van, tan, ran, lap, tap. Say each word slowly and ask: 'Can you hear the /a/ sound in the middle?' For an extra challenge, ask your child to pick one word and draw a picture of it. Then write the word underneath, sounding out each letter as they write.

Try the fun online learning activities for this book on our website!

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TEACHER'S NOTES AND TIPS

The end-first blending strategy used in this book — saying the vowel and final consonant together before adding the initial consonant — is a highly effective phonics technique. It helps children hear the short vowel sound clearly rather than blurring it when blending from left to right. Some children may initially find it unusual, but with practice it becomes a reliable tool for decoding new words. Note that several words in this book share the same vowel-consonant ending (can, fan, pan all use /an/) — use this as an opportunity to show children how changing the initial consonant changes the whole word.