Phoneme-Grapheme Mapping Boxes: Sound-to-Spelling Practice

Complete worked example / separate answer key

Map the spoken word 'thin'. Say it aloud, segment it, draw the correct number of boxes, write one grapheme per box, and record the grapheme count.

Answer: The word 'thin' has three phonemes: /th/, /i/, /n/. Draw three boxes. Write 'th' in the first box, 'i' in the second, and 'n' in the third. The grapheme count is 3. Box count is 3 and grapheme count is 3, so each phoneme maps to one grapheme in this row.

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Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Map the spoken word 'ship'. Segment it, state the number of boxes, write one grapheme per box, and give the grapheme count.

Answer: Three boxes: sh, i, p. Grapheme count: 3.

Reason: 'Ship' has three phonemes: /sh/, /i/, /p/. The first phoneme is represented by the two-letter grapheme 'sh', which goes in one box. The second and third are single letters 'i' and 'p'. Box count 3 equals grapheme count 3.

Check: Read the row aloud: /sh/ /i/ /p/. Confirm each box holds one grapheme and the answer column says 3.

Task 2

Map the spoken word 'rain'. Segment it, state the number of boxes, write one grapheme per box, and give the grapheme count.

Answer: Three boxes: r, ai, n. Grapheme count: 3.

Reason: 'Rain' has three phonemes: /r/, /ai/, /n/. The middle phoneme is represented by the two-letter grapheme 'ai', which goes in one box. Box count 3 equals grapheme count 3.

Check: Read the row aloud: /r/ /ai/ /n/. Confirm 'ai' sits in one box and the answer column says 3.

Task 3

Map the spoken word 'night'. Segment it, state the number of boxes, write one grapheme per box, and give the grapheme count.

Answer: Three boxes: n, igh, t. Grapheme count: 3.

Reason: 'Night' has three phonemes: /n/, /igh/, /t/. The middle phoneme is represented by the three-letter grapheme 'igh', which goes in one box. Box count 3 equals grapheme count 3.

Check: Read the row aloud: /n/ /igh/ /t/. Confirm 'igh' sits in one box and the answer column says 3.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Map the spoken word 'cat'. Segment it, state the number of boxes, write one grapheme per box, and give the grapheme count.

Answer: Three boxes: c, a, t. Grapheme count: 3.

Reason: 'Cat' has three phonemes: /c/, /a/, /t/. Each phoneme is represented by a single letter, so each box holds one letter. Box count 3 equals grapheme count 3.

Check: Read the row aloud: /c/ /a/ /t/. Confirm each box holds one letter and the answer column says 3.

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Task 1, Task 2, Task 3, Task 4 / Separate Answer Key

Separate key lists each dictation word, its phoneme segmentation, the graphemes for each box, and the grapheme count.

Word	Phoneme Segmentation	Graphemes per Box	Grapheme Count
cat	/c/ /a/ /t/	c | a | t	3
dog	/d/ /o/ /g/	d | o | g	3
sun	/s/ /u/ /n/	s | u | n	3
map	/m/ /a/ /p/	m | a | p	3
ship	/sh/ /i/ /p/	sh | i | p	3
thin	/th/ /i/ /n/	th | i | n	3
rain	/r/ /ai/ /n/	r | ai | n	3
night	/n/ /igh/ /t/	n | igh | t	3

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Worked example, Task 1, Task 2, Task 3, Task 4 / Worked Example: thin

Worked example for 'thin' with three boxes: th, i, n; grapheme count 3.

Worked example: 'thin' has three phonemes: /th/, /i/, /n/. Draw three boxes. Write 'th' in the first box, 'i' in the second, and 'n' in the third. The grapheme count is 3. Box count is 3 and grapheme count is 3, so each phoneme maps to one grapheme in this row.

Rubric: box count matches phoneme count; each box contains exactly one grapheme; each grapheme represents the phoneme in that position when read aloud; the grapheme-count column records the number of graphemes actually written; any difference between box count and grapheme count is explained by the mapping; letter forms are legible, with printed or handwritten styles, joined or separated multi-letter graphemes, and varied x-height accepted.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Box count matches the number of phonemes in the spoken word.
- [ ] Each box contains exactly one grapheme, either a single letter or a fixed multi-letter group.
- [ ] The grapheme in each box represents the phoneme in that position when the row is read aloud.
- [ ] The grapheme-count answer column records the number of graphemes actually written.
- [ ] Any difference between box count and grapheme count is explained by the mapping in that row.
- [ ] Letter forms are legible; printed or handwritten styles, joined or separated multi-letter graphemes, and varied x-height are accepted.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?