Vowel Digraph Word Sort and Writing Worksheet: ai, ea, oo

Separate answer key

Lists each word under its correct digraph, plus a note on the baseline-to-midline convention and accepted letter-style variation.

ai: rain, train, paint, wait

ea: team, bread, clean, sweep

oo: moon, spoon, broom, food

Convention: x-height is measured from baseline to midline for lowercase letters without ascenders or descenders. Ascenders and descenders may extend beyond. Recognizable printed, slanted, or joined styles are accepted.

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Rubric

Five-part rubric.

Placement: each word is in the column matching its vowel digraph.

Spelling: each copied word matches the word bank.

Legibility: letters are recognizable and the vowel digraph is clear.

Convention: lowercase letters without ascenders or descenders sit between baseline and midline; ascenders and descenders may extend beyond.

Variation: recognizable printed, slanted, or joined styles are accepted.

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Complete worked example / separate answer key

A word bank contains rain, team, and moon. Sort each word into the ai, ea, or oo column, then copy it on the line beneath that column.

Answer: rain goes under ai; team goes under ea; moon goes under oo. Each copied word should be legible, with the vowel digraph clearly visible. Under the convention, the a in rain and the e in team sit between baseline and midline; the oo in moon is two lowercase o letters between baseline and midline.

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Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Sort these words: train, bread, spoon. Write each under ai, ea, or oo.

Answer: train under ai; bread under ea; spoon under oo.

Reason: Train contains ai, bread contains ea, and spoon contains oo. Each word is placed once in the matching column.

Check: Read each word, point to the two-letter vowel digraph, and confirm the column label matches those two letters.

Task 2

Sort these words: paint, clean, broom, wait. Then copy each word once on the line beneath its column.

Answer: paint and wait under ai; clean under ea; broom under oo. Copies should match the word bank and be legible.

Reason: Paint and wait both contain ai. Clean contains ea. Broom contains oo. Copying reinforces the sort.

Check: Use the answer key for placement, then check each copy against the printed word and the baseline-to-midline convention.

Task 3

A student writes 'sweep' under the ea column and 'spoon' under the oo column. Are both placements correct? Explain.

Answer: Yes. Sweep contains ea and spoon contains oo.

Reason: The student located the vowel digraph in each word and matched it to the column label.

Check: Underline ea in sweep and oo in spoon; confirm each underlined pair matches its column heading.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Copy the word 'moon' on a line. Describe where the two o letters should sit using baseline and midline.

Answer: Both o letters should sit between the baseline and the midline, because o has neither an ascender nor a descender.

Reason: The convention defines x-height as baseline to midline for lowercase letters without ascenders or descenders. The letter o fits that description.

Check: Draw a baseline and a midline, write moon, and confirm both o letters rest on the baseline and reach the midline without extending above it.

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Task 1 / Task 1 answer

train under ai; bread under ea; spoon under oo.

train under ai; bread under ea; spoon under oo.

Reasoning: Train contains ai, bread contains ea, and spoon contains oo. Each word is placed once in the matching column.

Check: Read each word, point to the two-letter vowel digraph, and confirm the column label matches those two letters.

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Task 2 / Task 2 answer

paint and wait under ai; clean under ea; broom under oo.

paint and wait under ai; clean under ea; broom under oo. Copies should match the word bank and be legible.

Reasoning: Paint and wait both contain ai. Clean contains ea. Broom contains oo. Copying reinforces the sort.

Check: Use the answer key for placement, then check each copy against the printed word and the baseline-to-midline convention.

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Task 3 / Task 3 answer

Yes; sweep contains ea and spoon contains oo.

Yes. Sweep contains ea and spoon contains oo.

Reasoning: The student located the vowel digraph in each word and matched it to the column label.

Check: Underline ea in sweep and oo in spoon; confirm each underlined pair matches its column heading.

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Task 4 / Task 4 answer

Both o letters sit between baseline and midline.

Both o letters should sit between the baseline and the midline, because o has neither an ascender nor a descender.

Reasoning: The convention defines x-height as baseline to midline for lowercase letters without ascenders or descenders. The letter o fits that description.

Check: Draw a baseline and a midline, write moon, and confirm both o letters rest on the baseline and reach the midline without extending above it.

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Worked example / Worked example: rain, team, moon

rain under ai; team under ea; moon under oo.

rain goes under ai; team goes under ea; moon goes under oo. Each copied word should be legible, with the vowel digraph clearly visible. Under the convention, the a in rain and the e in team sit between baseline and midline; the oo in moon is two lowercase o letters between baseline and midline.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Placement: each word is in the column matching its vowel digraph.
- [ ] Spelling: each copied word matches the word bank.
- [ ] Legibility: letters are recognizable and the vowel digraph is clear.
- [ ] Convention: lowercase letters without ascenders or descenders sit between baseline and midline; ascenders and descenders may extend beyond.
- [ ] Variation: recognizable printed, slanted, or joined styles are accepted.

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