

**Materials**

Whiteboard

Exercises 24-39, SUS Practice Activities 1

Blackline master sheets for long vowel word cards and category cards—these colour-coded cards can be downloaded from the CD that accompanies this book.

**Procedure**

If students are unfamiliar with long vowel sounds and their spelling patterns, go through each long vowel sound using the following notes.

**The long 'a' sound****Sorting activity**

Photocopy the blackline master cards and make up sets of long 'a' word cards—one set of cards per group of 4-6 students.

The long 'a' spelling patterns are colour coded so that students will recognise them easily.

Make sure each student has a few cards to sort, to avoid the situation where one or two students do all the sorting and others are spectators.

Students sort the cards in the following ways, over three sessions.

**Session 1**

Sort the cards into groups according to their spelling patterns. Words should be grouped by these spelling patterns:

a      ai      ea      a\_e      ay      ey      aigh      eigh

Ask each group of students to tell you one pattern they have identified and then write them on the whiteboard. Continue until all patterns have been recorded on the board.

**Session 2**

Now that the spelling patterns for the long 'a' sound have been identified, the words can be sorted by the position of the long vowel sound in the word or syllable.

Demonstrate this on the board first. Take one set of word cards and one set of position cards (at the start of a word, inside a syllable etc). Put a small piece of magnetic tape or bluetack on the back of each card. Put the words that contain the **eigh** or **aigh** patterns to one side (*straight, eight, weigh, neighbour, freight*) initially. Ask students to **help you sort the cards on the board under these headings.**