

explicit teaching of

heart words



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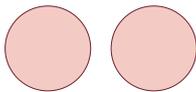
In The Code, Heart Words are words with an irregular spelling pattern or high frequency words with a spelling pattern that hasn't yet been taught.

When teaching Heart Words, focus on the phoneme grapheme relationships in the same way as when teaching a regular spelling pattern. However, as there will be an irregular or unexpected phoneme grapheme relationship in these words, highlight this when explicitly teaching them.

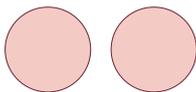
For example: the word 'my' in List 1a. The letter 'm' for /m/ is regular but students haven't yet been taught that the letter 'y' can represent the phoneme long /i/ at the end of a word, so this is the tricky part of the word that needs to be highlighted.

Teaching the Heart Word 'my'

- Identify the sounds in 'my' with two counters /m/ /i/

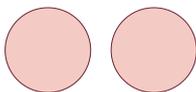


- Together with the students touch each counter and say the sound
- Starting at /m/ tell the students the letter to write under /m/ is 'm'
- Write the letter 'm'



m

- At the next sound explain that we hear long /i/ but in this word we write the letter 'y' to represent that sound

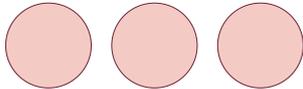


m y 

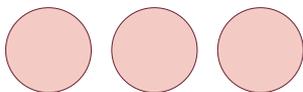
- Focus on the letter 'y' as the tricky part of the word 'my' and explain this is the letter we have to learn by heart.  We hear long /i/ in the word 'my' but we write 'y'.
- Next, students have their own counters and go through the process of touching and saying the phonemes in 'my' and underneath the counters writing the letters that represent the phonemes. Students can draw their own heart around or under the letter to help them focus on and remember the tricky part of the word.

Teaching the Heart Word 'said'

- Identify the three sounds in 'said' /s/ /e/ /d/

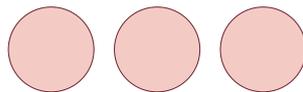


- Together with the students touch each counter and say the sound
- Starting at /s/ tell the students the letter to write under /s/ is 's'
- Write the letter 's'



s

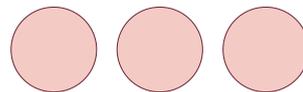
- Go to the last sound /d/ tell the students the letter to write under /d/ is 'd'



s

d

- Identify the medial sound in the word 'said' and explain we hear /e/ and instead of writing the letter 'e' for this word we write the two letters 'ai' to represent the sound

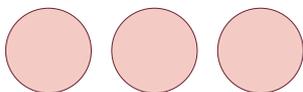


s

ai

d

- Focus now on the tricky part of the word the sound /e/ and the grapheme 'ai'. This is the part of the word we have to learn by heart ❤️



s

ai ❤️

d

- Next students have their own counters and go through the process of touching and saying the phonemes in 'said' and underneath the counters writing the letters that represent the phonemes. Students can draw their own heart around or under the letter to help them focus on and remember the tricky part of the word.