




Symbol-Coded Answer Key

Sometimes a word has overlapping chunks. For example, a vowel chunk may overlap with a Bossy *r* chunk (*heard*), or a consonant chunk may overlap with an ending (*really*). In the answer key, we have tried to remain consistent with the focus of each lesson. In lessons with multiple chunks, we marked vowel chunks before Bossy *r* chunks, but Bossy *r* chunks before consonant chunks.

If the student chooses a different chunking pattern than the one marked in the answer key, please do not consider it incorrect. Instead, take a moment to talk about the word and the overlap of chunks. You might ask the student which letter pattern he thinks would be most helpful for him to remember and let him mark that one. Remember that the goal is to create a visual memory for non-phonetic words.

Vowel chunks		Tricky <i>y</i> Guy	
Consonant chunks		Silent letters	
Bossy <i>r</i> chunks		Endings	

1A-E Vowel Chunks

What is red, white, and blue? The American flag! It has 13 red and white stripes. They stand for the first 13 colonies. It has 50 white stars in a blue rectangle. Did you know that the stars stand for our states? The flag did not always have 50 stars. The number changed each time our country added a new state.

Vowel Chunks 12

2 A-E Vowel Chunks

The Pilgrims had a hard journey to America. It took two months to cross the sea in their small, crowded ship. They reached land farther north than they wanted. When they landed, it was winter. They worked hard to build houses. It was freezing. They had little food. By spring, half of the people had died.

Vowel Chunks 18

3 A-E Consonant Chunks

Colonists were tired of British rule. They wanted their rights to be respected. Some men formed a congress. They wrote a letter to the king and asked him to make things better. The king did not change. Then they wrote the Declaration of Independence. All the men signed their names. The president, John Hancock, wrote his name in big, fancy letters.

Consonant Chunks 25

4 A–E Consonant Chunks

Paul Revere had a secret job. He carried messages for the colonists to help them in fighting the British. One night he was asked to take a warning to Samuel Adams and John Hancock. The British were coming to arrest them! Paul borrowed a horse and rode hard. On the way, he stopped at different houses to let people know what was happening. Soon he came to the house where the leaders were. Now they could get away!

Consonant Chunks 24

5 A–E Vowel and Consonant Chunks

When Thomas Jefferson was president, he bought a large piece of land from France. He paid only three cents per acre! He asked two men, Lewis and Clark, to travel through the land. They made it to the Pacific Ocean and back. The trip took over two years. The men learned much about the people, the animals, and the beauty of the new land.

Vowel Chunks 15 Consonant Chunks 18

6 A-E Vowel and Consonant Chunks

The Liberty Bell stands for freedom. There are words on the front of the bell. They say, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land." The bell proclaimed liberty when it was rung. One day it cracked. Even though people tried to fix it, the crack became worse. The Liberty Bell isn't rung now. But it still proclaims liberty. It still stands for freedom.

Vowel Chunks 14 Consonant Chunks 23

7 A-E Bossy r Chunks

The leaders of the new United States wanted to make a seal. They saw a picture of a bald eagle and liked it. The bald eagle holds arrows and an olive branch. They stand for war and for peace. The seal was made. From then on, the bald eagle was our national bird.

Bossy r Chunks 8

8 A-E Bossy r Chunks

Ben Franklin loved to read and write. He became a printer. He opened a print shop and started a newspaper. Soon the newspaper was very popular in the colonies. He started printing an almanac each year. People loved it! They could not wait to buy it! It had weather forecasts, recipes, and stories. It also had jokes and proverbs. One famous proverb was “Haste makes waste.”

Bossy r Chunks 13

9 A-E Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks

The White House has been the home of every American president except Washington. The White House has three parts. It has a West Wing and an East Wing. The middle part between the wings is for the president and his family. The wings of the White House are mostly offices. The White House has 132 rooms. It even has a bowling alley, a movie theater, and a flower shop!

Vowel Chunks 14 Consonant Chunks 20 Bossy r Chunks 8

10 A–E Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy *r* Chunks

When you think of Thanksgiving, do you think about turkey?
 What about goose, deer, or fish? Those were some of the foods
 at the Pilgrims' feast. They had much to be thankful for. Squanto
 and his tribe had helped them survive the first year in the New
World. The harvest was good. The Pilgrims and their friends
gathered to celebrate. They ate and played games for three
days.

Vowel Chunks 19 Consonant Chunks 22 Bossy *r* Chunks 9

11 A–C Endings

Herds of wild buffalo used to roam the plains. Some people
 needed the buffalo. They made blankets and clothing from the
hides. They cooked and ate the meat. The rest was dried into
 jerky. Other parts of the buffalo were useful as well. In 1913 a
 special nickel was made. It showed a buffalo on one side and a
 Native American on the other side.

Endings 8

11 D–E Silent Letters

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Silent Letters 11

12 A–C Endings

The Nez Perce were a group of people living in Oregon. Pioneers moving west wanted the land. The United States government asked the Nez Perce to move. Some did move. The rest said they would not go. This was their home! Then the army said they had to move. The Nez Perce tried to get away to Canada. Many died on the way, and they stopped fighting.

Endings 10

12 D–E Silent Letters

The Nez Perce were a group of people living in Oregon. Pioneers moving west wanted the land. The United States government asked the Nez Perce to move. Some did move. The rest said they would not go. This was their home! Then the army said they had to move. The Nez Perce tried to get away to Canada. Many died on the way, and they stopped fighting.

Silent Letters 11

13 A–C Tricky y Guy

Have you ever received a very big gift? Was it 150 feet tall? America once received a gift that size. Why? Our country was nearly 100 years old. The country of France wanted to give us a birthday gift. They built and shipped us the Statue of Liberty. She stands for hope and freedom. She greets everyone who comes to America through New York City.

Tricky y Guy 8

(Note: The *y* in *nearly* sounds like *e*, so it has been marked as a Tricky y Guy. It also happens to be part of the ending *-ly*. If both Tricky y Guy and endings are marked in one passage, most students will choose to mark the ending.)

13 D–E Endings

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Endings 6

14 A–E Tricky y Guy, Endings, Silent Letters

A teenage girl held her two brothers very tightly. Their boat trip across the ocean was over. Before they could enter New York City to live with their parents, they had to go through Ellis Island. If they didn't pass tests there, they could be sent back to Ireland. They waited in long lines. A doctor checked them. They answered many questions. Finally, they received their papers. They could stay in America!

Tricky y Guy 3 Endings 7 Silent Letters 11

(Note: Some students may identify the *tw* in *two* as a blend, in which case the *w* would not be marked as silent. The same is true of the *sw* in *answer*.)

15 A-E Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

If you have a penny, take a look at it. Abraham Lincoln is on one side. Do you see his beard? He grew it while he was running for president. A young girl wrote to tell him she thought he would look better with whiskers. Lincoln read her letter. When he wrote back to her, he said people might think it silly. But soon he grew a beard.

Vowel Chunks 16 Consonant Chunks 18 Bossy r Chunks 7 Tricky y Guy 2 Endings 1 Silent Letters 11

16 A-E Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Young Clara Barton sat by her brother's bed. During a barn raising, David had fallen from the rafters. Now he was very ill. Clara stayed home for two years to take care of him. She learned how to give him all his medicine. She helped him with his treatments. Years later, during the Civil War, Clara nursed soldiers. After that, she started the American Red Cross.

Vowel Chunks 10 Consonant Chunks 13 Bossy r Chunks 19 Tricky y Guy 2 Endings 8 Silent Letters 6

17 A–E Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

The Underground Railroad wasn't really a railroad. It didn't have train cars or train tracks. It had brave people who thought slaves should be free. They worked together to help slaves escape. It was risky. If runaway slaves were caught, they were beaten and sent back to slavery. Sometimes they were killed. If the people who helped them were caught, they were sent to jail or even killed.

Vowel Chunks 22 Consonant Chunks 19 Bossy r Chunks 11 Tricky y Guy 2 Endings 9 Silent Letters 12

18 A–E Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Harriet Tubman was a slave. She was going to be sold and sent away from her family. So she ran away. She traveled at night and hid in the day. At last she reached freedom. But she couldn't rest knowing her family members were still slaves. She joined the Underground Railroad. Back and forth she traveled, helping others escape. She made nineteen trips. Harriet was never caught, and every slave with her made it to freedom!

Vowel Chunks 16 Consonant Chunks 19 Bossy r Chunks 12 Tricky y Guy 1 Endings 10 Silent Letters 8

19 A –E Vowel Chunks

George Washington Carver studied plants. He wanted to help farmers in the South. Raising cotton year after year had worn out the soil. He taught farmers to grow peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans. These new crops helped build up the soil. They were also good for people to eat. Now the farmers could have better lives.

Vowel Chunks 24

20 A–E Consonant Chunks

Rosa Parks had worked a long day. She got on the bus and dropped into a seat. Soon a white man got on the bus. Rosa was African American. Since the seats for white people were all full, the driver ordered Rosa to move back. That day Rosa decided not to move. It seemed wrong to her. When she did not move, she was arrested.

Consonant Chunks 16

21 A–E Vowel and Consonant Chunks

When Martin was six, his closest friend was ordered not to play with him. It was because Martin was African American. Martin didn't understand. His parents assured him that he was as good as anyone else. In 1963 Martin Luther King, Junior gave a speech. He said, "I have a dream." He dreamed people would be judged by what they do and say, not by their skin color.

Vowel Chunks 14 Consonant Chunks 10

22 A–E Bossy r Chunks

When Lincoln was president, he signed the Homestead Act. A person could own 160 acres after moving to the land, building a home, and farming for five years. On the plains, settlers built their homes from sod. Winters were freezing. Summers were dry. Insects ate crops. There were storms and tornadoes. The settlers worked hard because they wanted their own land.

Bossy r Chunks 19

23 A–E Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks

New settlers kept arriving in the colonies, but the best farmland was already owned. People needed to move west to find places to live. Daniel Boone and his family were some of the first settlers to move to Kentucky. Daniel was a hunter and trapper. He spent much of his time in the forest. He was hired to cut a new road into Kentucky. Now more settlers could move there using the Wilderness Road.

Vowel Chunks 14 Consonant Chunks 15 Bossy r Chunks 12

24 A–E Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks

Davy Crockett wrote, “Be sure you’re right; then go ahead.” That’s how he thought, and that’s how he lived. Davy was born in Tennessee. Over the years he had many jobs. After getting married, he was a farmer. Then he was an army officer. He even served in the United States Congress. After that, Davy went to help Texas become free from Mexico. He fought and died in Texas at a place called the Alamo.

Vowel Chunks 11 Consonant Chunks 21 Bossy r Chunks 11

25 A–C Silent Letters

Imagine you were moving far away and could take only one plaything. What would you take? Pioneer children had to make this choice. They might choose a book or a doll. Families were supposed to pack only what was needed. The wagons were filled with food, tools, bedding, and other supplies. If the wagons were too heavy, they might get stuck. Then people would end up leaving supplies beside the trail.

Silent Letters 16

25 D–E Endings

Imagine you were moving far away and could take only one plaything. What would you take? Pioneer children had to make this choice. They might choose a book or a doll. Families were supposed to pack only what was needed. The wagons were filled with food, tools, bedding, and other supplies. If the wagons were too heavy, they might get stuck. Then people would end up leaving supplies beside the trail.

Endings 12

26 A–C Tricky y Guy

Would you answer this ad? “Wanted: Young, skinn^y, wir^y fellows not over 18. Must be expert riders willing to risk death daily^y.”

This was not a real ad for the Pon^y Express, but riders faced man^y dangers. They carried mail from Missouri to California.

At stations along the way, the riders stopped to change horses.

The Pon^y Express needed brave riders to carr^y the mail.

Tricky y Guy 7

(Note: The y in *daily* sounds like e, so it can be marked as a Tricky y Guy. It also happens to be part of the ending -ly. If both Tricky y Guy and endings are marked in one passage, most students will choose to mark the ending.)

26 D–E Endings

Would you answer this ad? “Wanted: Young, skinny, wiry fellows not over 18. Must be expert riders willing to risk death daily.”

This was not a real ad for the Pony Express, but riders faced many dangers. They carried mail from Missouri to California.

At stations along the way, the riders stopped to change horses.

The Pony Express needed brave riders to carry the mail.

Endings 8

27 A–E Tricky y Guy, Endings, Silent Letters

As a young man, Johnny Appleseed learned how to grow apple trees. When settlers moved into Ohio and Indiana, he planted orchards for them. He also planted orchards of his own and sold trees. Johnny lived simply. He had no house. He walked from place to place. His clothes were ragged. He is remembered for helping many needy people.

Tricky y Guy 4 Endings 11 Silent Letters 10

28 A–E Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy r Chunks; Tricky y Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Katharine Bates took a train ride across the country. She saw many beautiful sights. In Colorado she went to the top of Pikes Peak. She was over a mile above the city below. She could see so far that the distant mountains looked purple. The beautiful view gave her great joy. Back in her hotel, she put her thoughts into a poem. It became the song “America, the Beautiful.”

Vowel Chunks 19 Consonant Chunks 19 Bossy r Chunks 9 Tricky y Guy 3 Endings 6 Silent Letters 8

29 A–E Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy *r* Chunks; Tricky *y* Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

President Theodore Roosevelt loved being outdoors. He hiked and hunted. He believed that America needed to guard its wild places. He set aside land for five national parks and 150 national forests. He also saved 51 places where birds gather when they fly south for the winter. Maybe you can visit one of these beautiful, wild places.

Vowel Chunks 14 Consonant Chunks 9 Bossy *r* Chunks 10 Tricky *y* Guy 1 Endings 11 Silent Letters 6

30 A–E Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy *r* Chunks; Tricky *y* Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

On the side of a stone cliff, 400 workers blasted and drilled. They etched and hammered. They sanded and smoothed. They worked and sweated for many years. On the side of Mount Rushmore, they carved the faces of four great presidents! Each face is as tall as a six-story building. If you ever go to South Dakota, stop and see this huge carving.

Vowel Chunks 15 Consonant Chunks 17 Bossy *r* Chunks 10 Tricky *y* Guy 2 Endings 12 Silent Letters 6

31 A–E Vowel, Consonant, and Bossy *r* Chunks; Tricky *y* Guy; Endings; Silent Letters

Looking down into the water, James couldn't believe his eyes. Was that gold? He picked up some flakes and took them to his boss, John Sutter. Together they tested the tiny flakes. They had found real gold! At first John tried to keep it a secret. Soon news spread, and the Gold Rush was on. People came to California, hoping to get rich. Some did. Most did not. But many people stayed and settled California.

Vowel Chunks 18 Consonant Chunks 14 Bossy *r* Chunks 6 Tricky *y* Guy 2 Endings 10 Silent Letters 9

32 A–E All Letter Patterns

Americans love reading tall tales about Paul Bunyan. The stories aren't true, but many people think they are funny. Here is one. When Paul was born, he was a giant. He slept in a lumber wagon. Soon he grew too big for the wagon. Then his parents built a huge raft, and he slept on the ocean. If he turned over in his sleep, he made waves big enough to sink ships.

Vowel Chunks 16 Consonant Chunks 11 Bossy *r* Chunks 11 Tricky *y* Guy 2 Endings 4 Silent Letters 8

33 A–E All Letter Patterns

As a young man, Samuel Clemens worked as a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River. When the boat was in water twelve feet deep, Clemens would hear someone call out, “By the mark twain!” Later in life, he was writing short stories and wanted to use a pen name. Mark Twain was a perfect name. He used this name when he wrote his famous stories about Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn.

Vowel Chunks 17 Consonant Chunks 15 Bossy r Chunks 11 Tricky y Guy 1 Endings 4 Silent Letters 10

34 A–E All Letter Patterns

Eleanor was the wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. As First Lady, she did more than host parties. She worked to make life better for people. She gave speeches and raised money. She helped the young and the poor. She gave jobs to women and African Americans. She visited soldiers during World War 2. Someone said, “She would rather light a candle than curse the darkness.”

Vowel Chunks 12 Consonant Chunks 18 Bossy r Chunks 14 Tricky y Guy 1 Endings 6 Silent Letters 12

35 A–E All Letter Patterns

The spacecraft landed carefully. There was nothing around for miles and miles. There were only soil, rocks, craters, and outer space. A man climbed out of the hatch and down the ladder. As he stepped onto the soft, gray soil, he said, “That’s one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.” This was quite a moment in history. Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the moon!

Vowel Chunks 12 Consonant Chunks 17 Bossy r Chunks 15 Tricky y Guy 1 Endings 8 Silent Letters 11

36 A–E All Letter Patterns

Levi Strauss and his family came to America. They started several stores. During the Gold Rush, Levi headed west. He wasn’t looking for gold in the ground like other people were. He wanted to sell things like cloth, clothing, and bedding. Twenty years later, a tailor asked Levi to help him. The man wanted to make sturdy denim overalls. Their first denim jeans were made in the 1890s.

Vowel Chunks 10 Consonant Chunks 15 Bossy r Chunks 14 Tricky y Guy 3 Endings 11 Silent Letters 8