PHONICS · VOWEL TEAMS

ai and ay words

Name _____ Date _____

I can read words with ai and ay, like rain.

1 Say each word. Listen for the long a sound.



sn**ai**l



tr**ai**n



r**ai**n



ch**ai**n



s**ai**l



m**ai**l



p**ai**nt



cr**ay**on

2 How to say it

Ai and ay both make the long a sound, as in rain and play. A handy rule: ai is used inside a word (rain, tail) and ay at the end (day, play).

3 More ai and ay words

Read them to a grown-up.

r**ai**n t**ai**l w**ai**t p**ai**d m**ai**n pl**ay** d**ay**

s**ay** w**ay** st**ay** gr**ay** tr**ay**

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

PHONICS · AI AND AY WORDS

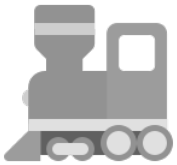
Which sound do you hear?

Name _____ Date _____

Say the picture name. Circle the letters that make the vowel sound.



ai oo oa



ai ee oa



ai oa ee



oo ai ee



ai oa ee



ai oo ee



ai ee oo



oo ay oa

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

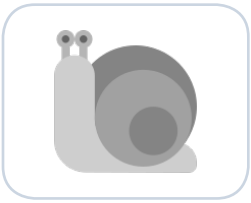
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PHONICS · AI AND AY WORDS

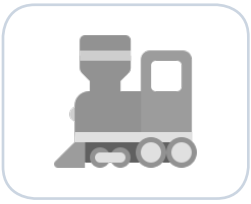
Match the picture to the word

Name _____ Date _____

Draw a line from each picture to its word.



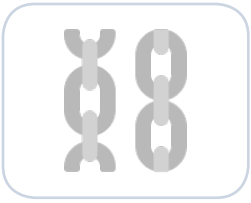
snail



rain



sail



chain



train



mail

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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PHONICS · AI AND AY WORDS

Fill in the missing letters

Name _____ Date _____

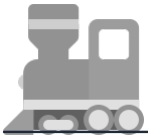
Write the missing letters in the box. Then write the whole word.

ai **ay**



sn☐l

_____



tr☐n

_____



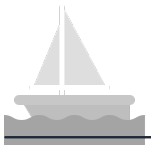
r☐n

_____



ch☐n

_____



s☐l

_____



m☐l

_____



p☐nt

_____



cr☐on

_____

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Sort the words

Name _____ Date _____

Read each word. Write it in the box where it belongs.

1 Word bank

paid tail wait stay rain day say play

ai	ay
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Read, trace and find

Name _____ Date _____

Read each word aloud, then trace it.

r**ai**n	rain	t**ai**l	tail
w**ai**t	wait	p**ai**d	paid
m**ai**n	main	pl**ay**	play
d**ay**	day	s**ay**	say
w**ay**	way	st**ay**	stay
gr**ay**	gray	tr**ay**	tray

2 Read each sentence. Circle the ai and ay words.

1. The snail is in the rain.
2. We play all day.
3. Wait for the train.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: ai and ay words

1 Which sound do you hear? / Fill in the missing letters

snail (ai), train (ai), rain (ai), chain (ai), sail (ai), mail (ai), paint (ai), crayon (ay)

2 Match the picture

1. snail 2. train 3. rain 4. chain 5. sail 6. mail

3 Sort the words

ai rain, tail, wait, paid

ay play, day, say, stay

4 Circle the words

1. snail, rain
2. play, day
3. Wait, train

5 Teaching tip

Ai and ay both make the long a sound, as in rain and play. A handy rule: ai is used inside a word (rain, tail) and ay at the end (day, play).

Watch for: Writing ai at the end of a word, as in "plai". Remind children that English words almost never end in i, so the end of the word gets ay.

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