

Coding Charts

The following coding charts briefly explain vowel and spelling rules, syllable-division patterns, letter clusters, and coding marks used in Saxon’s phonics programs.

Basic Coding

TO CODE	USE	EXAMPLE
Accented syllables	Accent marks	no´
C’s that make a /k/ sound, as in “cat”	K-backs	bat
C’s that make a /s/ sound, as in “cell”	Cedillas	çell
Combinations; diphthongs	Arcs	ar
Digraphs; trigraphs; quadrigraphs	Underlines	sh
Final, stable syllables	Brackets	[fle
Long vowel sounds	Macrons	nō
Schwa vowel sounds (rhymes with vowel sound in “sun,” as in “some,” “about,” and “won”)	Schwas	ō (or ɵ)
Short vowel sounds	Breves	lög
Sight words	Circles	are
Silent letters	Slash marks	makø
Affixes	Boxes	work[ing]
Syllables	Syllable division lines	cac tus
Voiced sounds	Voice lines	his

Vowel Rules

RULE	CODING EXAMPLE
A vowel followed by a consonant is short; code it with a breve.	lög cät sīt
An open, accented vowel is long; code it with a macron.	nō´ mē´ ĩ´ gō´ ā´ cōrn ō´ pēn ē´ vēn
A vowel followed by a consonant and a silent <i>e</i> is long; code the vowel with a macron and cross out the silent <i>e</i> .	nāmø hōpø ĩkø
An open, unaccented vowel can make a schwa sound. The letters <i>e</i> , <i>o</i> , and <i>u</i> can also make a long sound. The letter <i>i</i> can also make a short sound.	bā nān ā ē rāsø´ hō tēl´ Jū ĭy dĭ vĭdø´

Spelling Rules†

RULE	EXAMPLE
Floss Rule: When a one-syllable root word has a short vowel sound followed by the sound /f/, /l/, or /s/, it is usually spelled <i>ff</i> , <i>ll</i> , or <i>ss</i> .	puff doll pass
To spell the /ch/ sound in the final position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use the letters <i>tch</i> after a short vowel. ▪ Use the letters <i>ch</i> after anything else. 	match pooch bench
To spell the /j/ sound in the initial position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use the letter <i>j</i> before the letters <i>a</i>, <i>o</i>, or <i>u</i>. ▪ Use the letter <i>g</i> before the letters <i>e</i>, <i>i</i>, or <i>y</i>. 	jam joke giant
To spell the /j/ sound in the final position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use the letters <i>dge</i> after a short vowel. ▪ Use the letters <i>ge</i> after anything else. 	edge lunge cage
To spell the /k/ sound in the initial position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use the letter <i>k</i> before the letters <i>e</i>, <i>i</i>, or <i>y</i>. ▪ Use the letter <i>c</i> before <i>a</i>, <i>o</i>, <i>u</i>, or any consonant. 	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> keg kid silky </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> cat cot cut crop </div>
To spell the /k/ sound in the final position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use the letters <i>ck</i> after a short vowel. ▪ Use the letter <i>k</i> after a consonant or two vowels. ▪ Use the letters <i>ke</i> after a long vowel. ▪ Use the letter <i>c</i> at the end of a word with two or more syllables. 	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> lock milk look </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> make Atlantic </div>
To spell the /s/ sound in the final position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use the letters <i>ss</i> after a short vowel. ▪ Use the letters <i>ce</i> after a long vowel. ▪ Use the letters <i>se</i> after a consonant or two vowels. 	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> boss ice </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> false loose </div>
To spell the /v/ sound in the final position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use the letters <i>ve</i>. 	wave live solve
When a consonant suffix is added to a word, just put the word and the suffix together.	red + ness = redness
Dropping Rule: When a word ends with a “silent <i>e</i> ,” drop the <i>e</i> before adding a vowel suffix.	make + ing = making
Doubling Rule: When the final syllable of a word is accented and ends with one vowel and one consonant, double the final consonant before adding a vowel suffix.	hit + ing = hitting
Changing Rule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If a word ends with a vowel <i>y</i>, change the <i>y</i> to an <i>i</i> before adding a suffix (except for those suffixes that begin with <i>i</i>). ▪ Do not change <i>y</i> if it comes after a vowel. 	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> silly + ness = silliness </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> muddy + ing = muddying </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> play + ed = played </div>

†Spelling rules for phonics apply to approximately 87% of the English language. Spellings for the remaining words are irregular and must be memorized.

Syllable Division Patterns

PATTERN	VARIATION	EXAMPLE
vccv	vc'cv	napkin
	vc cv'	inject
	v ccv'	respect
	v' ccv	April
vcv	v' cv	baby
	vc' v	river
	v cv'	erase
vccvccv	vc cvc' cv	important
vcccv	vc ccv'	explain
	vc' ccv	emblem
	vcc' cv	pumpkin
vv	v' v	diet
	v v'	create
	v v	cameo

Final, Stable Syllables

FINAL, STABLE SYLLABLE	CODING	EXAMPLE
ble	'[blə]	bubble
cious	'[ciəs]	delicious
cle	'[clə]	uncle
dle	'[dlə]	candle
fle	'[flə]	ruffle
gle	'[glə]	bugle
kle	'[klə]	buckle
ple	'[plə]	staple
sion	'[siən]	television
		mission
sle	'[slə]	hassle
tion	'[tiən]	lotion
tious	'[tiəs]	nutritious
tle	'[tlə]	bottle
ture	'[tʃɜr]	picture
zle	'[zlə]	puzzle

Digraphs

DIGRAPH	CODING	EXAMPLE
ai	āī	rain
au	au	sauce
aw	aw	straw
ay	āy	hay
ch	ch	cheese
	ch	chord
	ch	chef
ck	ck	lock
ea	ēā	leaf
	ēā	thread
	ēā	break
ee	ēē	sheep
ei	ēī	receipt
	ei	veil
ew	ew	cashew
ey	ēy	key
gn	gn	gnat
ie	īē	pie
	īē	shield
kn	kn	knot
ng	ng	lung
oa	ōā	soap
oe	ōē	toe
oo	oo	hook
		tooth
ou	ōū	soup
ow	ōy	bow
ph	ph	phone
sh	sh	shark
th	th	feather
	th	thimble
ue	ūē	glue
wr	wr	wreath

Trigraphs

TRIGRAPH	CODING	EXAMPLE
dge	<u>dge</u>	bridge
igh	<u>igh</u>	light
tch	<u>tch</u>	patch

Quadrigraph

QUADRIGRAPH	CODING	EXAMPLE
eigh	<u>eigh</u>	sleigh

Diphthongs

DIPHTHONG	CODING	EXAMPLE
oi	<u>oi</u>	oil
ou	<u>ou</u>	mouse
ow	<u>ow</u>	cow
oy	<u>oy</u>	toy

Combinations

COMBINATION	CODING	EXAMPLE
ar	<u>ar</u>	arm
		dollar
er	<u>er</u>	butter
ir	<u>ir</u>	shirt
or	<u>or</u>	fork
		doctor
		worm
qu	<u>qu</u>	quail
ur	<u>ur</u>	purse
wh	<u>wh</u>	whale