Chapter 10: R-Controlled Vowels
Introduction to r-controlled vowels

You might have noticed that vowels sometimes sound a little different when they come before the letter r. In this chapter, you will learn all about these vowels, called r-controlled vowels.

These are the things we are going to do in Chapter 10:
1. Learn more about r-controlled vowels
2. Practice reading words with r-controlled vowels

Read as much of the text as you can, but remember to ask for help if you get stuck. The words with r-controlled vowels are blue.
The letters *er*

When a vowel is followed by *r*, it may have the same sound as it does before other letters, but it is often different. Here are some of the sounds that vowels make before the letter *r*:

When *e* is followed by *r* at the end of a word, it has the same sound as in the word *her*.

Practice reading these words to hear the *er* sound.

*baker*

*butter*
When another consonant comes after the r, the er has the same sound:

fern

jack-o-lantern

Now read these words with the letters er:

herd       germ       term
perm       verse       concert       desert
modern       pattern
The letters **ir** and **ur**

The letters **i** and **u** have the same sound as **er** at the end of a word or before another consonant. Practice reading these words to find this out:

- skirt
- curl
- purse
- shirt

Now read these words with the letters **ir** and **ur**:

- dirt
- smirk
- squirt
- Saturday
- hurl
- fur
- burn
- curd
- bird
The letters **or**

The letter o can have the same sound as **er** in many common words. This happens after w:

world word work

It always has this sound in a syllable that doesn’t have the main accent:

color horror
Elsewhere, or sounds like the squawk vowel most of the time when it comes before r at the end of a syllable. Practice reading these words to find this out:

```
corn      fork
```

Now read these words with the letters or:

```
born      form      pork      sort  
torn       core       formal      port
       or       cork       stork       fort
```
The letters **ar**

The letter a sounds like the a in *ma* and *pa* before r in these words:

```
  car       card
```

Now read these words with the letters **ar**:

```
barn       farm       cart       park
mark       chart       part       star
start       lark       yarn       lard
```
The silent-e rule with r

The silent-e rule works well with vowels followed by r. You can see this when you read the following words:

**long a + r:** hare

- scare
- care
- mare
- dare
- share

**long i + r:** fire

- tire
- sire
- mire
- desire
- fire
The long o, u, + r

The letter u sounds like “you” before r in these words:

pure       cure       endure

Long o + r does not have the sound of long o for most people, but sounds like the squawk vowel.

store       more       core       tore

At the end of 2-syllable words, the ure sounds like er:

picture       creature       feature       nature
Regular vowel teams with r

The regular vowel teams work well before r. You can see this when you read the following words:

deer    sneer    peer    sheer    cheer

hair    pair    air    fair    stair    chair

oa + r has the same sound as the squawk vowel

oar    soar

boar    roar
Irregular vowel teams with r:

Irregular vowel teams make different sounds before r. You can see this when you read the following words. Most of the time, the vowel pair ea sounds like long -e before r:

fear       rear       gear

dear       near

spear       shear       smear

year       hear
Word detention

These words are in detention because they broke the rules. What would these words sound like if they did obey the rules? It might be fun to figure that out. Why is “heard” sitting in detention? Why is “heart” there? Let’s remember that they are all there for a good reason.

Look at the words in the detention room. Some of these words have the a sounds like the squawk vowel.
Read these sentences with r-controlled vowels:

Kara was tired of working in the city. She said to Charles, “I need a cure to cheer me up. We have not seen nature or fresh air in a year. Let’s go to the state park tomorrow. Charles said, “I’m scared of the woods. There are snakes out there.” Kara said, “Nothing to fear. I have a forked stick.” So they packed the rear of their car with camping gear and set out to explore the world. They saw deer crossing the beaver dam and a vulture soaring in the sky. After a while, they were cold and tired. It was forty four degrees. They built a fire to get warm and started to go to sleep. Pretty soon, Charles was snoring. Something roared in the night. Was it a bear? “I don’t care,” said Charles. “I’m getting out of here!”
Introduction to **Zapping Zorks**

If you play arcade games, or if you have a little brother or sister that gets in the way, this is a story for you. It’s all about Zorks, too. You’ll have to read the story to find out what they are. But you can see from the picture that they are pretty weird.

You’ve been learning about the special vowels before the r, and this story is full of them. Just to remind you, the vowels before r are all in blue.

**Challenge Words**

*Zapping Zorks* has some big words you might not recognize right away. Before you start the story, make sure you know how to read these words:

- machine
- disgusting
- trigger
- slot
- inspired
- tomorrow
- Thursday
- spite
- jerk
- admit
- disappeared
My name is Marco, I’m king of the Zork machine. When it comes to zapping Zorks, I come down real mean.
Because Zorks are no good, they’re disgusting and weird. This world will be a better place when they have all disappeared.
There’s a real bad bunch at the Pierce Arcade,
but there’s always a lot less of them after I’ve played.
Only one thing that hurts, that I have to admit.
It hurts me so bad that I could just spit.
To see “Dirty Bird” on the top of the board with twenty three million and nine.
When all the rest down the line are mine, mine, mine, mine, mine.
I walked in on Thursday, my sister Deera was with me. She’s really a pain, like shoes that don’t fit me. But she said that there’s nothing she wants to do more than watch me roll up points and set the high scores.
I threw in my quarters and started to work.
I got the first Zork, he was a dumb little jerk.
But the Zorks got quicker I found to my sorrow.
They started hitting me like there was no tomorrow.
I came up short; I must have been tired. It just wasn’t my birthday, I wasn’t inspired. By the time I got to game number four I was just nowhere near the Zork high score.
I turned to Deera and said, “Look here, honey, dig into your purse and hand me some money.” I took her two quarters and slid them into the slot. When I heard them drop I knew that I was hot.
I got one Zork in the heart and one in the ear.
I burned a big ugly one that came at me with a spear.
I was right on the mark and quick on the trigger.
My score was just getting bigger and bigger.
I played it hard and I played it dirty.
I wound up with twenty three million and thirty.
I was about to put MARCO as number one play
but Deera had already typed in D-E-E-R-A.
I said, “Dag! Deera! That isn’t right!
You took away my game just out of spite.”
I said that I was sorry that I had ever brought her.
She said, “Cool it Marco, it was my quarter.”
I went home by myself, I said I don’t care. But I couldn’t get over it, it just wasn’t fair. The next day I walked into Pierce ready to play something fierce.
I couldn’t believe the high score on the board.
It read DEERA with twenty four million and four.
The Detective Game

Now you are almost finished with this chapter, and it’s time to play the Detective Game!

Detective Mack Jackson is very busy, so he needs more people on his team to help get some information about the story in this chapter. Use your memory and your detective skills to help him get some answers!

You read Zapping Zorks in this chapter (Page 15). Go find Detective Jackson’s list of questions.

You might want to spend a couple minutes reviewing the story with your tutor before moving on, and you might need to look at it again after you start the questions. That’s okay! The better you know the story, the better your answers will be.

Before you start, read the directions and make sure you know the meaning of all of the words in the Detective Game Dictionary.
The Tower Game

Let’s play the Tower Game! You get two dominoes to start. Every time you read a word right, you get another domino from your tutor. See how tall you can make your tower and don’t let your tutor win! ...

1. girl
2. hurt
3. worm
4. dart
5. pore
6. glare
7. lure
8. bare
9. leer
10. hire
11. dorm
12. arm
13. burn
14. wart
15. bore
16. board
17. cure
18. perk
19. waver
20. stare
The Tower Game: 2

Let’s play the Tower Game! You get two dominoes to start. Every time you read a word right, you get another domino from your tutor. See how tall you can make your tower and don’t let your tutor win! ...