

Linguistic Skills Supported by Benchmark Decodables in English and Spanish

Understand the Phonetic Differences to Support Literacy and Cross-Linguistic Transfer

PHONETIC ELEMENTS	ENGLISH	SPANISH
Vowels		a, e, i, o, u
Short Vowels	a, e, i, o, u	none
Long Vowels	ā, ē, ī, ō, ū	none
Vowels Digraphs Two vowels together that create a single sound	ai, ay, ee, ea, ie, ei, oo, ou, oe, ue, ey, ay, oy, oi, au	none
Diphthongs Two vowels together that each makes a sound	/aɪ/ as in "my" /eɪ/ as in "day" /aʊ/ as in "now" /oʊ/ as in "go" /ɔɪ/ as in "boy" /ɪə/ as in "veer" /eə/ as in "air" /ʊə/ as in "tour"	ai, ay, au, ei, ei, ey, eu ie, io, iu, oi,oy ua, ue, ui, uy
Consonants	b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, z	b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, ñ, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, z
Consonant Blends Two or three consonants that blend sounds in the same syllable	bl, cl, fl, gl, pl, sl, br, cr, dr, fr, gr, pr, tr, sc, sk, sm, sn, sp, st, sw, tw str, spr, scr, spl	bl, cl, fl, gl, pl, br, cr, dr, fr, gr, pr, tr
Consonant Digraphs Two consonants that represent a single sound	ch, sh, sp, st, th, wh	ch, ll, rr, gu, qu
Silent Letter Letters that are not heard when a word is pronounced	mb, sc, gn, rh, kn, lf, ld, mn, wr	h
Additional Skills Applied in Decodables	Controlled vowels (-ar, -er, -ir) Homophones Compound words Contractions Comparative endings Inflectional endings Prefixes Suffixes	Homophones Diéresis: güe, güi

Decoding Distinctions: A Guide to English and Spanish Phonics



Wiley Blevins, Ed.D.
Literacy Expert and
Early Reading Specialist

Characteristics of High-Quality Decodable Readers

- Instructive
- Comprehensible
- Engaging



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Transfer Between Spanish and English

- Understanding native language
- Applying to new language
- Maximizing transfer



Teacher support materials include orthographic mapping routines.

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