

All games can be played with a small group or with the whole group.

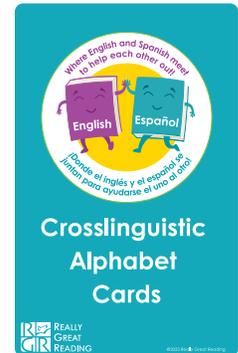
Crosslinguistic Transfer

What is crosslinguistic transfer and how do these Alphabet Cards help support it?

Crosslinguistic transfer is simply a transfer of shared skills or concepts between languages. Different languages often share certain elements, such as letters or sounds. When a shared trait is already preexistent in one language, it can often support and speed up the process of understanding the same trait in the new language being learned.

Really Great Reading's Alphabet Cards reiterate **the shared letters and sounds** of the Spanish language within the English language through the purposeful selection of cognate words for identifying beginning sounds.

A cognate word is a shared word across two languages that has the same meaning in each language. Sometimes the cognates are spelled exactly the same in each language, or they may vary in their spellings (e.g., **doctor/doctor** or **car/carro**). Cognates are usually pronounced differently in the two different languages.



Shared Letter-Sound Alphabet Cards

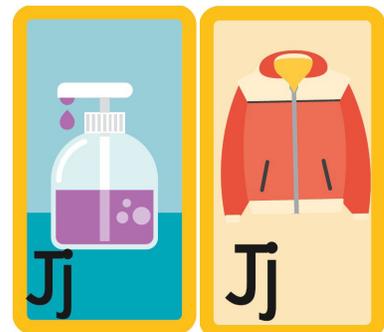
For **shared letter-sounds (sounds that exist in both English and Spanish)**, we have **Shared Letter-Sound English Alphabet Cards** with the letter on one side and a picture of a cognate word with the shared beginning sound in English and Spanish on the other side. Not all words with shared sounds are cognates. We have chosen cognate examples for the cards for simplicity and to reiterate the shared sounds.



Shared Letter-Sound Card for Bb

Unshared Letter-Sound Alphabet Cards

Our **Unshared Letter-sound English Alphabet Cards** emphasize the differences in letter-sounds between English and Spanish. These cards specifically focus on letters that are shared between the two languages but have distinct sounds. These cards feature pictures of words that are not cognates (i.e., words that don't share the same origin). For example, the card for **Jj** shows a jacket for the English sound /j/ and jabón (**soap, pronounced ha/bone**) for the Spanish sound of the letter **Jj, which is /h/**. This acknowledges and celebrates the differences between the languages. These cards are also a resource if your English learner needs reiteration or differentiation in unshared sounds of shared letters in English.

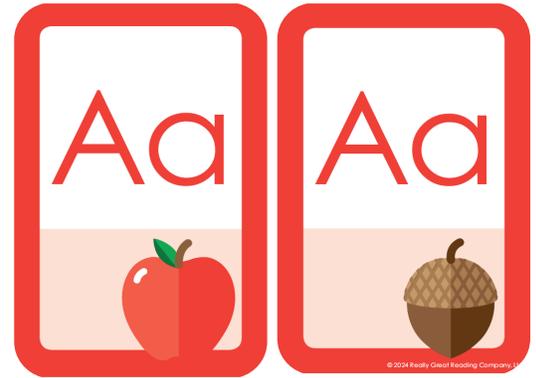


Unshared Letter-Sound Card for Jj

English Vowel Alphabet Cards

Really Great Reading's **English Vowel Alphabet Cards** explicitly emphasize that vowels have both long and short sounds in the English language. Although the vowel letters (graphemes) are shared in both languages, their sounds and functions are entirely different. This is because unlike in English, Spanish vowels only have **one sound**. These cards reiterate the two different vowel sounds for each English vowel letter. The English Vowel Alphabet Cards have a picture for the long vowel beginning sound on one side and a picture for the short vowel beginning sound on the other.

These cards can be used in a variety of ways, including simple identification activities in small group settings or games or drills in whole or small groups. Some sample activities are below. We encourage you to be creative and have fun with the cards however it would most benefit your language learners.



Two Vowel Sounds - Short/Long

Vowel Alphabet Cards

Option 1: When learning and practicing the vowel movements for short and long vowels, use the Vowel Alphabet Cards to prompt students to make the correct movements. Mix up the cards and check for correct movements attached to the visuals on each card.

Option 2: Hold up either the short or long vowel side of the vowel cards and ask your student(s) to say the correct sound for that vowel. The visual adds an additional prompt to support your language learner as they are reviewing each different sound.

Option 3: To check for understanding and differentiation between long and short sounds, you may use the double-sided card as a prompt for the student to make the short sound and then the long sound consecutively as you flip/show each side of the card.

Consonant Alphabet Cards

Option 1: If a student is struggling with a particular sound, you may reiterate its shared sound or differentiate its unshared sound by referencing the card and saying the word while emphasizing the beginning sound. Students should repeat the words and the first sound of each picture. You can either “marvel” (for encouragement of bilingual development) at how the sounds are shared and are even sometimes used in the same words, or you can reiterate how those sounds are not only completely different, but are used in words with different meanings.

Option 2: Have students sort the cards into same and different piles. Point out that students already know the majority of the sounds in the alphabet. You can make a more concrete impact by physically touching the smaller pile of unshared sounds to emphasize that there are fewer unshared sounds. If regional pronunciations result in differences for some of the shared sounds, you can simply celebrate how the sound is pronounced where a certain student is from, while reiterating the English sound and picture word.

Option 3: You may also review groups of letters and their sounds by choosing a group of letter cards you would like to review and placing them in a row. You can articulate the sound and have the student choose the correct card that corresponds to that sound. You can also ask if each letter-sound is a shared or unshared sound (appropriate if your student is in a dual language program and is receiving half of their literacy instruction in Spanish).

The following are shared consonant graphemes and phonemes in both the English and the Spanish languages:

Bb, Cc, Dd, Ff, Hard Gg, Kk, Ll, Mm, Nn, Pp, Ss, Tt, Vv, Ww, Xx, Yy

The Vowel or Consonant Cards can also be used for review. Show the picture side to the student, asking them the beginning sound and letter. For shared letter sounds, whether the word or letter is said in English or in Spanish, the beginning sound will be the same!

The unshared phonemes in both the English and the Spanish language are: Hh, Jj, Qq, Rr, Soft Gg, Zz

Letter with Shared Sound	English Word	Spanish Word	Oral Spanish Pronunciation based on English articulation (for non-Spanish speakers)
Bb	baby	bebé	be/be (emphasis on the last e)
Cc	calendar	calendario	ka/lin/dah/ree/o
Dd	dentist	dentista	den/tees/tah
Ff	family	familia	fah/mee/lee/ah
hard Gg	gorilla	gorila	go/ree/lah
Kk	kiwi	kiwi	key/wee
Ll	lion	león	lay/on (emphasis on o)
Mm	map	mapa	mah/pah
Nn	nest	nido	knee/doe
Pp	pizza	pizza	piz/za
Ss	soup	sopa	soh/pah
Tt	tomato	tomate	toe/mah/tay
Vv	violin	violín	veeo/leen
Ww	Washington	Washington	Wah/sheeng/tan
Xx	explode/explosion	explotar/explosión	ex/ploe/tar ; ex/ploe/seeon
Yy	yoyo	yoyo	yo/yo
Letter with Unshared Sound	English Word	Spanish Word	Oral Spanish Pronunciation based on English articulation (for non Spanish speakers)
Hh	house	helado	e/lah/doe (h is silent in Spanish)
Jj	jacket	jabón	ha/boe (emphasis on the o)
Qq	quiet	quinceañera	keen/sian/yera (Spanish culture "sweet sixteen," celebrated at age fifteen)
Rr	rabbit	regalo	re/gah/loe
Zz	zipper	zapato	sa/paw/toe