

Welcome to Phonics

- Sam Muller
- Please put on your thinking caps

Am I teaching phonics?

- A B C D E

- a ba ca da e fa

Katakana English

- Discuss in pairs, is it ok to write katakana under words to help students pronunciation.

Honestly

- I do it in regular non-phonics lessons. It saves time but beware.

- There are five cats.

What does this sentence become in katakana?

What do you do when you make a sound?

- In pairs discuss how you make the following sounds:

- m, n, p, t

Hint:

- Where is your tongue?
- What are your lips doing?
- Are you using your voice box?
- Did air come out your nostrils?

Things to remember when teaching Phonics:

- When a person hears an unfamiliar sound their brain matches it to a familiar sound. This is why r and l sound similar to Japanese people.
 - When you teach phonics you have to teach how to make the sound and have students practice making that shape.

Consonants

- Japanese and English have a similar set of consonants. So for a lot of them we don't have to teach phonics.
- In pairs discuss which consonants Japanese doesn't have

The sounds Japanese have difficulty
with

v, θ, ð, ɹ, j, l,

They are:
v as in violin
th as in this
th as in brother
r as in rabbit
y as in year
l as in log
Any surprises?

Workshopping time

- In pairs discuss how you make these sounds

v, th, th, r, y, l

- There are two th sounds because one is voiced and the other is unvoiced.

Teaching Phonics

- So far we've discussed mouth shapes. With troublesome sounds it's also good to work with minimal pairs.
- In pairs discuss which sounds you'd match together to help teach these sounds:

v, r, l, ye, th

v, b, p and f

Usually Japanese people get v and b mixed up.

Please make these two sounds

What's the difference?

Now make b and p

And v and f

What's the difference?

v and f are pairs

These two have the same mouth shape. Both have the top teeth on the bottom lip. v is voiced f is not.

B and p are pairs

These are made by putting your lips together and bringing them apart while exhaling air. b is voiced p is not

GAME TIME!!!

Pick the sound

pat, fat, bat, vat

1, 2, 3, 4

In pairs one says the word the other picks which one saying 1, 2, 3 or 4

l and r

These two are actually the trickiest for Japanese people. My wife is Japanese. She has lived in Australia for five years. Got two incorrect answers on the TOEIC test. However if I say a word with ls and rs in it and ask her to spell it she probably won't pick the right one. Why?

ら、り、る、れ、ろ

In romanji these are typically written with an r.

However it is not an r. These sounds are exactly in the middle of the shape you make for an l a r.

This is why ls and rs sound exactly the same to Japanese people.

l

Tongue against the back of your teeth. Teeth apart. Voiced.

r

Tongue up to the roof of your mouth, not behind the teeth, teeth apart, voiced.

Th

Th is a tricky sound for Japanese people to make.
Why?

J as in year

This one is a strange one because actually
japanese has the j sound with や ゆ よ.

They don't have ye and yi.

Now for the hardest phonics question your
teacher will ever ask you:

- How can I teach the difference between year and ear?
- To Japanese people they sound the same.

Quick comment on si as in sit

Japanese doesn't have the si sound. It has a s and it has an i but not together.

Discuss in pairs how to teach the si sound?

Vowels

The often missed phonics lesson.

In pairs discuss

- How many vowels does English have?
- How many vowels does Japanese have?

Answer

- Depending on the dialect English has between 9 and 21 vowel sounds
- British standard English has 21
- American standard English has 17
- Australian standard English is closer to British so it has about the same number of vowels
- Highland Scottish has the least at 9 which is why it's so hard to understand.
- Japanese has five vowel sounds.

Wait why does BSE have more
vowels than ASE?

Discuss

English Vowels IPA

Monophthongs:

ɑ, æ, ɛ, ɪ, i, u, ɜ, ɔ, ʊ, ʌ, ə

Diphthongs:

aʊ, oʊ, ɔɪ, aɪ, eɪ, ju

The extra sounds in British and Australian English are long vowel sounds: a:, ɔ:, u:, i: these are used instead of r.

Vowel pitch and tone

Vowels are different to teaching consonants in that you don't teach mouth shapes you teach pitch and tone.

What's the difference between ʌ as in umbrella, æ as in cat, o as in pot and i as in sit?

Vowels in English

ɑ as in a in father	ɔ is aw in law or or in or
æ as in a in cat	ʊ as in u in bull
ɛ as in e in bed	ʌ as in u in umbrella
ɪ as in i in sit	ə as in or in doctor, or er in butter
i as in ee in bee or e in she	ɑ: as in ar in car
u as in oo in book	ɔ: as in ore in sore
ɜ as in ir in girl	ʊ: as in oor in door
o as in o in pot	ɪ: as in ee in tree

Vowels continued

So as you can see while we only have five vowels in the alphabet those five vowels are very flexible depending on what's around them.

So don't just teach a is a because it isn't just that sound. It's also æ and it can also be aɪ

Discuss in pairs which sounds match up with which letters.

What are diphthongs?

aʊ, oʊ, ɔɪ, aɪ, eɪ, ju

Diphthongs are two vowel sounds smooshed together.

In the telephone game we used the words:
bait, vote and bite.

Teaching Diphthongs

Let's SMOOSH

Separate the sounds first. Pretend you are throwing two invisible tennis balls in the air. When you throw one in the air say the first sound. When you throw the other one up say the second sound get progressively faster until you are saying them together.

Ear

i: a

i: a

i: a

i: a

3 as in ir in girl

Most of the vowel sounds are pretty easy. This one though is tricky.

The sound is made right at the back of your throat with your tongue up to your roof. It's kind of like a growl.

That game I played before only more hardcore

Warning: this game is high level phonics, if you want to do this game you have to build to it.

Telephone number phonics

Convert your phone number or 10 random numbers into words using this table.

Pot 1	Put 2	Putt 3
Bat 4	Bite 5	Bait 6
Fit 7	Vet 8	Vote 9
	Feet 0	

Building up to that game

Could you imagine doing that game in your classroom?

It's possible but you have to build to it.

Discuss in groups how you could build your students up to that level.

Parting comments on teaching phonics

You don't have to teach all the sounds. Just the sounds that are hard.

Teach just the sound you want them to copy. Don't add anything to it.

Teach them how to make the sound not just the sound.

Your students will enjoy making funny sounds so don't think that it's going to be dull.