Phonics: the 'ai' sound

Phase 3 · Reception to Year 1

Name: _____

Read each word aloud, sounding it out. The made-up words are the real test — they cannot be guessed from memory, only sounded out.

REAL WORDS

rain	pain	tail	sail	wait

MADE-UP WORDS

vain	zail	slaib	slaip	blaig	swail
fain	staill	slait	traid	blain	vaiz

These are not real words. A child who has memorised word shapes cannot guess them — they can only be sounded out. Half the words in the Year 1 phonics screening check are made up, for exactly this reason.

WRITE IT

Write 'ai' five times. Then write three real words that use it.