

## Unit 4: Mastering the letter E

### Unit Objectives to be read to your students:

At the end of this unit you will be able to name the letter E as well as to recognize it whether it happens to be in upper case or lower case, in Times Roman Font, Aerial Font, Manuscript or Cursive.

You will know the sounds that the letter E makes when it is followed by a consonant (CVC), when it is a double EE, when it is followed by the letter A, and when it has no sound but is simply a SIGNAL letter (Silent E). You will be able to say and write the letter as well as to be able to read and spell all the words that can be made with E as it may combine with the letters A, B, C, D, R, S, T and Y.

You will also be able to put the letters in alphabetical order.

### Unit 4, Lesson 1 Letter E "EE"

A	B	C	D	E										R	S	T	U	V		X	Y
a	b	c	d	e										r	s	t					y
A	B	C	D	E										R	S	T					Y
a	b	c	d	e										r	s	t					y

The name of this letter is "EE." What is the name of this letter? (Get a good loud response of "EE!")

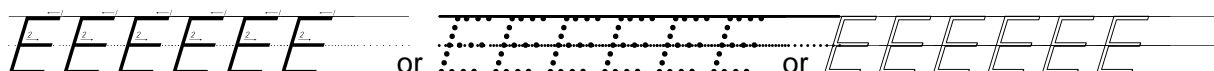
When we put the letter e as the only vowel in a small word and put it at the end, it is pronounced "EE" as in the word be. When a small word ends with two letter e's (ee), the sound of the e's are "EE" as in bee, see, fee, gee, knee, Lee, and tee.

When the letter e is between two consonants its sound is the first sound you hear when you say the name of the letters, eff (F), ell (L), em (M) en (N) and ess (S) or what we call the short e. The short e has the second sound you hear in the word leg or the first sound you hear in the word egg.

When the letter e is followed by the letter a it usually is sounded long as in the eat, but it can be short as in sweater, or even a long AY sound as in the word break.

So you see, the sound that the letter e makes depends upon its neighbors.

You can now have your children practice writing the letter E. It might be wise to have paper especially made so the children can connect the dots or go between the dotted lines or trace the letter. The exercise should look something like this:



Make sure that your children are all holding their pencils correctly and making the correct strokes to make the upper case or capital letter E. "Start at the top. Make a bar to the left. Slant back down to the bottom line. Make a bar to the right. Make a bar to the right on the middle line."

Have your children make as many lines of the Capital E as you feel necessary.  
Now teach them to make the lower case e.



*eeeeee* or  or *ℓℓℓℓℓℓ*

To make the letter e, we start between the bottom and the middle and curve up, around and back down, a fish hook up.

Have your children make as many lines of the lower case e as you feel is necessary.

Now you might want to have them spell and/or read the words they know so far:

When you are working one to one and have a portable dry erase board, you might want to make the letter for a child very large and have the child trace over it with a different color dry erase pen. Work for doing it smoothly and rapidly.

When the child has the large  down pat, reduce the size a little and have the child trace over a slightly smaller large  and continue tracing until it is done smoothly and rapidly.

Then keep reducing the size until it becomes the normal size for a printed *e*.

You can also have your children practice a letter connecting search in which they circle or highlight all the Big E's (Upper Case E's or Capital E's). This time put real words they have already learned between the E's. Or you can have the connecting search in lower case e's.

The letters can be in different fonts as previously illustrated:

**E**TART**E**DART**S**E**T**RY**E**BY**E**DADDY**E**SA**D**E**S**TRAY**E**RAT**S**E**C**AST**E**YAR  
D**S**E**C**ART**S**E**L**AD**S**E

If you find the "Search and Destroy to create words a useful and fun activity, we suggest that you create your own exercise using a variety of fonts. To conserve space and to keep the cost of this book down, we will **not** repeat these in our lessons.

Tell your children to now write the word **bee** as in I hate to be stung by a **bee**. Don't be surprised if a child writes just the letter B. This will be a good time to review the concept of the difference between names and sounds. We spell the word **bee** by starting with the letter b which has the sound "buh" or the sound you hear at the start of words such as Bob, Betty, boat, and boom. Write the word **bee** on the dry erase board using black for the letter b and red (or your favorite color) for **ee** so it looks like this: **bee**. You can now ask them to spell the word **be** as in "What do you want to **be** when you grow up?"

If a child misspells **be** as **bee**, smile and say, that's a Professor AVKO gotcha. Some words sound the same but have different spellings. When we use the simple word **be** which usually follows will, as in "He will **be** going, she will **be** singing, we will **be** working, they will **be** playing," we just spell **be** with one **e**. All you have to do now, is erase the last **e** to get **be**.

Now, let's spell **tee** as in Tiger Woods hit his golf ball 300 yards off the first **tee**. After the children attempt to spell **tee**, you show the correct spelling on the dry erase board as **tee**. If a mistake has been made, let the child correct his/her own mistake. Then go on to the following words using the same technique of saying the word, using it in a sentence, and saying the word again, and after the children have finished spelling the word, write it on the dry erase board using color.

Let's spell **tree** as in "Can you climb a **tree**?" **tree**

Now, let's spell **see** as in "I see you. **see**"

**BASIC WORDS:** be bee see tree

**Power Words:** bees sees tee tees trees treed reed reeds breed breeds (bred) deed deeds deeded seed seeds seeded reseed reseeds reseeded seedy seeder seeders cedar cedars beet beets street streets deer steer steers steered beer beers career careers seer seers

**NAMES:** Caesar Caesar's Seder ("SAY dur") Seders

Note the word *Caesar* is just about the only word in English in which the ae combination is used.

<i>be</i>	<i>be</i>	<b>tree</b>	<b>see</b>	<i>street</i>
<i>BE</i>	<i>BEE</i>	<i>tree</i>	<i>see</i>	STREET

If you make your own alphabet cards with at least five of each letter, you might want to have your children sort the letter cards by fonts. Have all five of each together. Then you can have them read from flash cards and/or spell the words in the lesson.

To save space, we will stop mentioning this activity. We don't think you need to be reminded every lesson that this is an activity you can do.

**Keyboarding (Optional):** Show your children how to place their hands gently on the keyboard so the little finger left hand is on the A key. Make sure the letters g h are uncovered. The right hand is placed gently on the same row. The space bar is to be struck by the right thumb. The Enter Key is to be struck by the little finger on the right hand stretching over the apostrophe key and then returning to the semi-colon key.

The E key is to be struck by the middle finger left hand and should return to the home row position just above the letter D.

Have your children type as many rows of eee saying: "EE EE EE SPACE EE EE EE SPACE EE EE EE SPACE ENTER " as you feel is necessary to lock it in.

Then have your children type each line of the basic words above three times. Then do the three lines all in capital letters. They should use the Caps Lock to do so.

You might want to dictate to your child those POWER WORDS you want your child to learn. Say the word, spell the word and say "comma" after each word, "period enter" at the end of each line. You can also dictate the names.

If any of the children make mistakes, don't worry about it. Just have them keep going. You don't have to slow the process by having them backspace over the missed letter. Mistakes are opportunities to learn. But you should get them to correct their mistakes afterwards.

You might also want to have your children type the decodable sentences below. You might want to dictate them or have them put on your computer using that wonderful copy and paste technique and just read them to your children or have choral readings with them.

Remember: to make the capitals A B C D E R S and T, the little finger on the right hand must first slide down and hold the shift key down while the index finger on the left hand hits the appropriate key.

### **Decodable Sentences:**

1. See a bee. A bee sees a tree.
2. Dee sees Cedar Street.
3. Be a bee?
4. SEE A STREET.
5. *See a car.*
6. *See a streetcar.*
7. *Bart Starr sees a streetcar.*
8. *Art Carr sees a bee.*
9. **A star sees a cat scat.**
10. **Bart Starr sees stars.**

**Remember, you can make your own decodable sentences. You don't have to use ours. We suggest that you make your own and to use a variety of different fonts.**

**Unit 4, Lesson 2 e as part of the ea digraph:** Letters ea make the sound of the long E, or the sound you hear at the end of sea, flea, tree, spree, agree, etc.

**NEW BASIC WORDS:** sea read eat ear

**POWER WORDS:** reads reader readers bead beads beady seas eats seat seats seated treat treats treated treaty beat beats tea teas tease teased teaser teasers ease eases eased easy east East beast beasts yeast ears dear dears tear tears sear sears seared

Be sure to point out that beat and beet are homophones (or homonyms as they used to be called when I was in school back in the 1930's).

Be sure to point out that read and read are heteronyms. One rhymes with red and the other rhymes with reed.

**NAMES:** Bea Bea's Betty Betty's Sears Easter

<i>sea</i>	<i>ear</i>	<b>eat</b>	<b>sea</b>	<i>read</i>
<b>READ</b>	<b>EAT</b>	<i>read</i>	<i>ear</i>	<b>EAR</b>

**Keyboarding (Optional):**

**Decodable Sentences:**

1. Ray treats a daddy's cat.
2. *Bart says eat a beet.*
3. Art says Bart eats beets.
4. *Art's car beats Bart's carts.*
5. **A CAT EATS A BAD RAT.**
6. **Dad's cats eat bad rats.**
7. *A brat eats cats?*
8. *A RAT EATS A CAT'S EAR.*

9. *A deer eats a crab's ears?!?*

10. *A bad cat eats bats.*

**Remember: Your students might enjoy creating their own sentences using the words they have learned.**

## Unit 4, Lesson 3 The short e sound as in CVC and CVCC words.

The letter E has the short e sound when it is in front of one or two consonants. Its sound is the sound you hear at the beginning of Ed and egg and elephant.

Now ask them to try to spell the name Ed. After they finish, write **Ed**. Have them correct any errors they may have made. Then go to **Ed's** as in "Ed's dad." If the children forget to put in an apostrophe, it's no big deal. Most likely, they don't know what an apostrophe is or what it looks like. So show them. Tell them we use the apostrophe s ('s) to show possession. The plain s at the ends of words just shows a plural form or has the meaning of more than one. We will be giving words, especially names, with an apostrophe and an s quite frequently in this book.

Now ask them to try to spell **bed**. Then **beds**, Make sure your children didn't put in an apostrophe.

Now, do the rest of the basic words. Continue on with as many of the POWER WORDS AND NAMES as you feel is appropriate for this lesson. Remember: Let the children correct their errors before you give the next word.

**NEW BASIC WORDS:** red bed best rest yes dress yet better

**POWER WORDS:** redder reddest beds bet bets dresses dressed dressed dressy address addresses addressed tress tresses stress stresses stressed rests rested rests rested arrest arrests arrested test tests tested attest attests attested retest retests retested detest detests detested **bred** yeses yesterday yesterday's ester esters crest crests crested **debt debts** detect detects detected erect erects erected

**NOTE:** You *might* want to point out that the word **bred** is the past tense of breed that was in Lesson 1 of this unit and that it is a homophone of **bread**. Remember you are the teacher. **Teach what you want to teach.**

**NAMES:** Ed Ed's Ted Ted's Teddy Teddy's Red Reds Red's Reddy Crest Bess Bessy Betsy Betty Betty's Deb Debby Debby's

Have your children write as many lines of the small e as you feel is necessary.

<i>red</i>	<i>bed</i>	<b>rest</b>	<b>dress</b>	<i>best</i>
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RED	BEST	yes	bed	better
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## Keyboarding (Optional):

### Decodable Sentences:

1. ED SAYS, "RED RESTS BETTER."
2. *Ted says, "Betty better arrest Red."*
3. Yes, Betty says, "Ed arrested Ted."
4. *Teddy addressed Betsy.*
5. *Red dresses are best.*
6. *Bad cats are better at bat.*
7. *Yes, Betty's streetcars are best.*
8. *Red beets are better.*
9. *Teddy's Betty says "Ted arrested Sassy Cass."*
10. **BRASSY BETTY SASSES SASSY'S CADDY.**

## Unit 4, Lesson 4 The letters ea can have the short E sound

Make sure that your children are all holding their pencils correctly and making the correct strokes to make the all their letters.

**NEW BASIC WORDS:** read read bread dead bear ready

**POWER WORDS:** deader deadead dread dreads dreaded tread treads stead steady bedstead bears tear tears

**NAMES:** Reddy Stead Teddy Bear

bread	dead	read	ready	bear
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BREAD	DEAD	read	READY	BEAR
-------	------	------	-------	------

## Keyboarding (Optional):

**Remember:** to make the capitals **A B C D E R S** and **T**, the little finger on the right hand must first slide down and hold the shift key down while the index finger on the left hand hits the appropriate key.

### Decodable Sentences:

1. Ed read, "Better eat Red bread."
2. Ted says, "Be steady. Better be ready."
3. Yes, Bart Starr says, "Rats are better dead."
4. Teddy says, "Bad bats are better deader."
5. Red ate red bread by a bear's bed.
6. Brad's bear beds are at best bad red bread beds.
7. Yes, Betty Carr's red breads are best.
8. Betsy read red beet breads are better.
9. Teddy's dad says "Eddy's cat's dead."
10. Steady Eddy says Teddy's car's ready.

**Unit 4, Lesson 5 Review:** The suffix **-ed** indicating past tense can have **three** sounds /d/ as in starred, /ud/ as in started, and /t/ as in dressed.

**The suffix -ed indicating past tense can have three sounds**

**ALL POWER WORDS:** -ed ("id") *added carted darted started  
batted ratted\* acted detracted\* erected\**

-ed ("d") *stayed strayed scarred (scared) barred (bared) battered  
scattered (eased diseased)*

-ed ("t") (*ceased decreased creased*) *dressed (aced raced traced  
faced cased erased)*

**The suffix –er:** *starter starters barter barterers bartered batter batters battered battery adder adders reader readers deader better scatter scatters scattered racer racers tracer tracers dresser dressers ester esters beater beaters*

**Names:** *Carter Carter's Streeter Streeter's*

**The Silent E Rule:** In small words that end Vowel Consonant Silent E (VCe), the first vowel tends to be long:

**NEW BASIC WORDS:** **are** ate care race case cares scare scares

Note: The word "are" should be spelled simply ar, but it isn't.

**POWER WORDS:** *tater taters rate rates rated crate crates crated crater craters create creates created date dates dated state states stated crease creases creased ace aces aced race races raced trace traces traced cease ceases ceased deceased cede cedes ceded recede recedes receded bare bares dare dares dared scare scares scared scary stare stares stared erase erases erased eraser erasers case cases cased taste tastes tasted taster tasters tasty*

**NAMES:** *Bates Bater Baters Tate Tate's Abe Abe's Ace Ace's*

<i>are</i>	<i>scared</i>	<b>added</b>	<i>scarred</i>	<b>raced</b>
<b>ARE</b>	<b>SCARED</b>	<i>added</i>	<b>SCARRED</b>	<i>raced</i>

## Keyboarding (Optional):

**Remember:** to make the capitals **A B C D E R S** and **T**, the little finger on the right hand must first slide down and hold the shift key down while the index finger on the left hand hits the appropriate key.

### Decodable sentences:

- Red Carr raced Steady Eddy's red car.*
- Bart Starr raced Ada Carter's cart.*

3. Eddy Carter scared batty Betty.
  4. YES, SARA SCARED BETSY BAD.
  5. Betsy dared Dee's dad.
  6. Art says Bart's daddy tasted a dead rat
  7. *A bad cat stated a crate created a crater.*
  8. *Betty erased a bad cat's rat sat.*
- 9. BRAD RACED A STEADY RACE.**
- 10. Ted cared. Sara scared Teddy's cats.**

## Unit 4 Lesson 6

More on The Silent E Rule: In small words that end Vowel Consonant Silent E (VCe), the first vowel tends to be long.

Review of BASIC words: a at bat bats cat cats rat rats sat **as** sad dad dads adds **car cars card cards scar scars day days say says stay stays sea read eat ear red bed best rest yes dress best rest yet better read bread dead bear bears**

**Review of POWER words:** scat scats brat brats drat tat tats stat stats dab dabs tab tabs stab stabs crab crabs drab brad brads cad cads scads tad tads bar bars tar barb barbs carb carbs arc arcs arc arcs bard bards art arts cart carts dart darts tart tarts start starts retard retards act **acts tact tract tracts** attract attracts attract **carat carats** abs dabs cads scads **brads** cabs scabs crabs barbs bras **arcs** ass\* **bass\*** sass brass crass cast casts yard yards "yabba dabba" bay bays ray **rays** bray **brays tray** trays stray strays **reads** reader readers bead beads beady **seas** eats seat seats seated treat treats treated treaty **beat beats tea teas tease** teased teaser teasers ease eases eased easy east East beast beasts yeast ear ears **dear** dears **tear** **tears** sear sears seared redder reddest beds bet bets dresses dressed dressed dressy tress tresses stress stresses stressed rests rested rests rested arrest arrests arrested test tests tested attest attests attested retest retests retested detest detests detested **bred** yeses yesterday yesterday's ester esters crest crests crested debt debts detect detects detected erect erects erected deader deader ready dread dreads dreaded tread treads stead steady bedstead bear bears **tear tears**

**-ed ("id")** added **carted darter started batted ratted\*** acted **detracted\*** erected\*

**-ed ("d")** **stay ed stray ed scar red bar red bar ed batter ed scatter ed ease ed care ed scare ed**

**-ed ("t")** **cease ed de cease ed crease ed ace ed race ed trace ed brace ed base ed (baste) case ed**

**The suffix -er:** Carter starter starters barter barter's bartered batter batter's battered batter's adder adders reader readers deader better scatter scatter's scatter ed racer racers tracer tracers dresser dressers ester esters beater beaters

**Review of NAMES:** Cass Ada's Dad's Saab Sara Sara's Brad's Barb's Barbara's Barbra's **Ray Ray's Bray Bray's** Bea Bea's Betty Betty's Sears Easter Ed Ed's Ted

Ted's Teddy Teddy's Red Reds Red's Reddy Crest Bess Bessy Betsy Deb Debby  
 Debby's Reddy Stead Teddy Bear Carter Carter's Streeter Streeter's

**The Silent E Rule: In small words that end Vowel Consonant Silent E (VCe), the first vowel tends to be long:**

**NEW BASIC WORDS Reviewed:** **are** ate care race case

**Note:** The word "are" should be spelled simply **ar**, but it isn't.

**POWER WORDS:** *tater taters rate rates rated crate crates crated  
 crater craters create creates created date dates dated state states  
 stated crease creases creased ace aces aced race races raced trace  
 traces traced cease ceases ceased decreased **cede cedes ceded recede  
 recedes receded** **bare bares** dare dares dared scare scares scared  
 scary stare stares stared erase erases erased eraser erasers case  
 cases cased taste tastes tasted taster tasters tasty*

**NAMES:** *Bates Bater Baters Tate Tate's Abe Abe's Ace Ace's*

<i>care</i>	<i>ate</i>	<b>race</b>	<b>case</b>	<i>are</i>
<b>CARE</b>	<b>ATE</b>	<i>race</i>	<b>CASE</b>	<b>ARE</b>

## Keyboarding (Optional):

You might want to dictate to your child those POWER WORDS you want your child to learn. Say the word, spell the word and say "comma" after each word, "period enter" at the end of each line. You can also dictate the names.

If any of the children make mistakes, don't worry about it. Just have them keep going. You don't have to slow the process by having them backspace over the missed letter. Mistakes are opportunities to learn. But you should get them to correct their mistakes afterwards.

### Decodable sentences:

1. Ed Bates races Ted's crate.
2. BART STARR RACED ADA'S CART.
3. *Steady Eddy scared bad batty Betty.*
4. *Yes, Teddy scares Eddy Bater bad.*
5. *Betsy dares Dee's daddy add a tad.*

6. Art says Bart's sad daddy tasted a dead rat

7. A bad brat stated a bad crate created a crater.

8. BETTY ERASED A SAD BAT'S BRAT SAT.

9. Yes, Brady's baby braces are ready, Steady Eddy.

10. Ted cares. Teddy's cats are scared.

**Review of BASIC words:** a at bat bats cat cats rat rats sat as sad dad dads adds car cars card cards scar scars day days say says stay stays **sea read** eat ear red bed best rest yes dress best rest yet better **read bread** dead **bear bears**

**Review of POWER words:** scat scats brat brats drat tat tats stat stats dab dabs tab tabs stab stabs crab crabs drab brad brads cad cads scads tad tads bar bars tar barb barbs carb carbs arc arcs arc arcs bard bards art arts cart carts dart darts tart tarts start starts retard retards act **acts tact tract tracts** attract attracts attract **carat carats** abs dabs cads scads **brads** cabs scabs crabs barbs bras **arcs** ass\* **bass**\* sass brass crass cast casts yard yards "yabba dabba" bay bays ray **rays** bray **brays** **tray** trays stray strays **reads** reader readers bead beads beady **seas** eats seat seats seated treat treats treated treaty **beat beats tea teas tease** teased teaser teasers ease eases eased easy east East beast beasts yeast ear ears **dear** dears **tear tears** sear sears seared redder reddest beds bet bets dresses dressed dressed dressy tress tresses stress stresses stressed rests rested rests rested arrest arrests arrested test tests tested attest attests attested retest retests retested detest detests detested **bred** yeses yesterday yesterday's ester esters crest crests crested debt debts detect detects detected erect erects erected deader deader ready dread dreads dreaded tread treads stead steady bedstead bear bears **tear tears**

**Review of NAMES:** Cass Ada's Dad's Saab Sara Sara's Brad's Barb's Barbara's Barbra's Ray Ray's Bray Bray's Bea Bea's Betty Betty's Sears Easter Ed Ed's Ted Ted's Teddy Teddy's Red Reds Red's Reddy Crest Bess Bessy Betsy Deb Debby Debby's Reddy Stead Teddy Bear