

Sounds of Before

CK-12 English

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Sounds of <a> before <ll>

<a> as [o] or [a] based on position of <ll> in a free stem

Sounds of <a> Before <ll>



[Figure1]

When the letters <ll> come at the end of a free stem, an <a> before them will spell [o].

When the <ll> comes in the middle of a free stem, an <a> before them will spell [a].

Examples

Usually the <ll> spelling follows the VCC pattern. For instance, in *ballads*, *fellows*, *thrilling*, *dollar*, and *bullet*, there is a short vowel in front of the <ll>, and it is always the vowel sound that it looks as if it should be. In *ballads* there is a short <a>; in *fellows* there is a short <e>; in *thrilling* and *dollar*, a short <i> and short <o>; and in *bullet* a short <oo>, [ü].

Sometimes right in front of the <ll> you should hear the short <a> sound, [a], that the spelling suggests, but sometimes you should hear the short <o> sound, [o]. Remember: Short <a> is the vowel you hear in *hat*. Short <o> is the vowel you hear in *hot*.

Review

1. Read the following words aloud. Pay special attention to the vowel sound in front of the <ll> in each one. Mark the vowel sound in front of the <ll>, as we have done with *stalled*.

stalled [o]	tallest	eyeballs	befallen
stallions	tallied	balladist	fallacies
allies	allergies	recalling	hallowed
halls	overalls	callousness	valley
appalled	alligators	mailing	shallowness
challenge	balloting	galleries	smallest

2. Each of the twenty-four words contains a free stem plus a suffix. Analyze each one.

Word	= Free Stem	+ Suffix	Word	= Free Stem	+ Suffix
<i>stalled</i>	= <i>stall</i>	+ <i>ed</i>	<i>eyeballs</i>	= <i>eyeball</i>	+ <i>s</i>
<i>stallions</i>			<i>balladist</i>		
<i>allies</i>			<i>recalling</i>		
<i>halls</i>			<i>callousness</i>		
<i>appalled</i>			<i>mailing</i>		
<i>challenger</i>			<i>galleries</i>		
<i>tallest</i>			<i>befallen</i>		
<i>tallied</i>			<i>fallacies</i>		
<i>allergies</i>			<i>hallowed</i>		
<i>overalls</i>			<i>valleys</i>		
<i>alligators</i>			<i>shallowness</i>		
<i>balloting</i>			<i>smallest</i>		

3. Now look at the twenty-four free stems you just found in your analysis. Sort them into this matrix.

	Free stems with the <all> . . .	
	at the end	not at the end
Free stems with [a] before <ll>		
Free stems with [o] before <ll>		

[Figure2]

Review (Answers)

1.

stalled [o]	tallest [o]	eyeballs [o]	befallen [o]
stallions [a]	tallied [a]	balladist [a]	fallacies [a]
allies [a]	allergies [a]	recalling [o]	hallowed [a]
halls [o]	overalls [a]	callousness [a]	valley [a]
appalled [o]	alligators [a]	mallings [o]	shallowness [a]
challenge [a]	balloting [a]	galleries [a]	smallest [o]

2.

Word	= Free Stem	+ Suffix	Word	= Free Stem	+ Suffix
<i>stalled</i>	= <i>stall</i>	+ <i>ed</i>	<i>eyeballs</i>	= <i>eyeball</i>	+ <i>s</i>
<i>stallions</i>	= <i>stallion</i>	+ <i>s</i>	<i>balladist</i>	= <i>ballad</i>	+ <i>ist</i>
<i>allies</i>	= <i>all y + i</i>	+ <i>es</i>	<i>recalling</i>	= <i>recall</i>	+ <i>ing</i>
<i>halls</i>	= <i>hall</i>	+ <i>s</i>	<i>callousness</i>	= <i>callous</i>	+ <i>ous</i>
<i>appalled</i>	= <i>appal + l</i>	+ <i>ed</i>	<i>mallng</i>	= <i>mall</i>	+ <i>ing</i>
	<i>or appall</i>	+ <i>ed</i>			
<i>challenger</i>	= <i>challeng e</i>	+ <i>er</i>	<i>galleries</i>	= <i>galler y</i>	+ <i>i + es</i>
<i>tallest</i>	= <i>tall</i>	+ <i>est</i>	<i>befallen</i>	= <i>befall</i>	+ <i>en</i>
<i>tallied</i>	= <i>tall y + i</i>	+ <i>ed</i>	<i>fallacies</i>	= <i>fallac y + i</i>	+ <i>es</i>
<i>allergies</i>	= <i>allerg y + i</i>	+ <i>es</i>	<i>hallowed</i>	= <i>hallowed</i>	+ <i>ed</i>
<i>overalls</i>	= <i>overall</i>	+ <i>s</i>	<i>valleys</i>	= <i>valley</i>	+ <i>s</i>
<i>alligators</i>	= <i>alligator</i>	+ <i>s</i>	<i>shallowness</i>	= <i>shallow</i>	+ <i>ness</i>
<i>balloting</i>	= <i>ballot</i>	+ <i>ing</i>	<i>smallest</i>	= <i>small</i>	+ <i>est</i>

3.

	Free stems with the <all> at the end	Free stems with the <all> not at the end
Free stems with [a] before <ll>		<i>stallion</i> <i>ally</i> <i>challenger</i> <i>tally</i> <i>allergy</i> <i>alligator</i> <i>ballot</i> <i>balladist</i> <i>callous</i> <i>gallery</i> <i>fallacy</i> <i>hallow</i> <i>valley</i> <i>shallow</i>
Free stems with [o] before <ll>	<i>stall</i> <i>hall</i> <i>appal(l)</i> <i>tall</i> <i>overall</i> <i>eyeball</i> <i>recall</i> <i>mall</i> <i>befall</i> <i>small</i>	

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