Short I CVC Word List

52 words with the short i sound /i/ as in pig, grouped into 11 word families.

Every word on this page has the same shape: consonant, short i, consonant. Because each letter says its usual sound, a child who knows the letter sounds can decode all 52 of these words without guessing.

Teaching order: work through one family at a time, and within a family change only the first sound. Start with the largest families below (-ick and -id) because they give the most practice, then move to the one-word families once the pattern is secure.

-ick (6)

kick lick pick sick tick wick

-id (5)

bid kid lid mid rid

-ig (5)

big dig pig rig wig

-ill (6)

fill gill hill mill pill sill

-im (2)

dim him

-in (6)

bin fin gin pin tin win

-ip (8)

dip hip lip nip rip sip tip zip

-ish (3)

dish fish wish

-iss (3)

hiss kiss miss

-it (7)

bit fit hit kit lit pit sit

-ix (1)

mix

Teach it in four steps

1. Review the short i sound on its own, until it is secure.
2. Blend the vowel with the ending (-at, -en, -ig...) and say it as one chunk.
3. Add the first sound to build the whole word (c-at = cat).
4. Read the word in a short sentence.

More: cvc-words.com/short-i-cvc-words.html has pictures, audio and a teaching guide for this vowel.