

Support for English Learners

Unit 20, page 147: Long a Words

Some children may have difficulty pronouncing words containing the long a vowel sound.

Listen

Explain that in words such as the Basic Word *came*, the vowel *a* is pronounced /ā/ and is called the long *a* sound. Say: *Let's listen to the long a sound in the word came: /ā/, /ā/ /ā/ /ā/, cāāāme, came.* Then model the Basic Words *make* and *brave*, following the procedure described above.

Now remind children that the vowel sound in the Basic Word *can* is a short vowel, pronounced /ă/. Model the contrast between the long *a* sound in *came* and the short *a* sound in *can*. Say: *Let's listen to two different vowel sounds for a: short a, or /ă/, /ă/ /ă/ /ă/, cāāān, can, and long a, or /ā/, /ā/ /ā/ /ā/, cāāāme, came.*

Speak and Read

Say: *Let's practice the Basic Word came together: /ā/, /ā/, cāme, came.* Repeat with *brave* and *make*. Have children repeat after you.

Write *came*, *make*, and *brave* on the board and circle the *a*-consonant-*e* pattern in each word. Say: *Many words have the long a sound spelled a-consonant-e. The letter e that follows the consonant is silent and makes the letter a say its name, /ā/.*

Spell

Beginning/Preproduction Write the Basic Words *came*, *make*, *name*, and *gave* on the board. Have children clap out each letter as they spell *came* with you. Have them point to *came* and read it aloud. Ask: *What pattern spells the /ā/ sound in came?* Repeat with *make*, *name*, and *gave*.

Early Production/Speech Emergent Give each child word cards for the Basic Words *came*, *make*, *name*, *take*, *late*, and *gave*. Have children hold up the appropriate card as you say the words. Have them copy the words into their word-study notebooks.

Intermediate/Advanced Use the Basic Words *came*, *make*, *name*, *take*, *late*, and *gave* in short sentences. Write the sentences on the board. Ask children, working in pairs, to find the Basic Word in each sentence. Call on volunteers to circle the Basic Words they found on the board. Have children copy the words into their word-study notebooks.

came

late

gave