
Focus Letter Pattern: EAT

Lesson Difficulty Level: 5

There are approximately 1000 words in the English language containing the letters EAT. Most of the time, the EA digraph is long, as in EAT or FEAT, but sometimes those letters correspond to other sounds. Hence, there are two separate lessons for EAT.

STEP 1: Using hints, work with your students to generate the following words and fill in the word work matrix. Be sure to define each word and use it in a sentence as you write it in the word-work matrix. Emphasize the inconsistency in the pronunciation of EAT.

1. DEATH
2. BREATH
3. FEATHER
4. WEATHER
5. LEATHER
6. SWEAT
7. SWEATER
8. GREAT
9. THREAT
10. CREATE
11. CREATOR
12. THEATER

STEP 2: When the word-work matrix is completed, have the students chant the words aloud 3 or 4 times to build rapid and proper pronunciation. Point out to the students how EAT is not pronounced very consistently.

STEP 3: Quickly call out words at random, and have the students tell you what cell each word is in. For example, if you say CREATE, the students should tell you it's in box 10. Or if you say SWEAT, the students should say it is in box 6.

STEP 4: Read the following sentences aloud and have the students figure out what word belongs in the blank space:

- If something does not weigh very much, we say it is as light as a _____.
- The Native Americans made most of their clothes out of _____.
- If it is cold outside, you might want to put on a _____.
- If you tell somebody you are going to hurt them, that's a _____.
- If you invent something, then you are a _____.

STEP 5: In the spaces below the word-work matrix, have students generate other words that contain the letters EAT. To make it more interesting, tell them you will be very impressed with students who come up with really unusual and sophisticated vocabulary words. See if the students come up with words like HEATHER or NAUSEATE. If they can't, encourage them to simply modify one of the words you have already discussed with a prefix or a suffix, or think of a compound word that contains one of the words from today's lesson.

STEP 6: Have the students generate an original sentence correctly using at least two of the words from the lesson.



Student Word-Work Worksheet

NAME: _____ FOCUS LETTERS: _____

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9.
10.	11.	12.

Write your OWN words that contain the letters _____:

Write a **grammatically correct** sentence using at least TWO of the words from the matrix above.

