

# Saxon Phonics-Guide for Parents

## SAXON Vowel Coding Rules:

- **VOWEL RULE 1: Short Vowels:** (lesson 2) A vowel followed by a consonant is short. Code it with a breve.
- **VOWEL RULE 2: Long Vowels:** (lesson 3) An open, accented vowel (not followed by a consonant) is long. Code it with a macron and an accent.
- **VOWEL RULE 3:** (lesson 41) A vowel followed by a consonant and a silent e is long; code the vowel with a macron, and cross out the silent e.
- **Vowel Rule 4 (Schwa):**(lesson 84) Open, unaccented vowels usually have the following sounds: a is *schwa*; e, o, and u are *long*; and i is *short*. Any vowel can have the /u/ sound. Coded with an upside down e. (schwa)

## Spelling Rules

- **K and C Spelling Rules:** (lesson 23)
  - k before e, i, or y
  - c before a, o, u, and any consonant
- **Final /k/ Spelling Rules:** (lesson 29)
  - ck after a short vowel
  - k after a consonant or a vowel digraph
  - ke after a long vowel
  - c at the end of a word with two or more syllables
- **Floss Rule:** (lesson 52) When a one-syllable root word has a short vowel sound followed by the sound /f/, /l/, /s/, it is usually spelled ff, ll, ss, zz.
- **Final /v/ Spelling Rule:** (lesson 53) When a word has the final sound /v/, it is spelled ve.
- **Final /s/ Spelling Rules:** (lesson 78)
  - ss after a short vowel
  - ce after a long vowel
  - se after anything else
- **Adding a Consonant Suffix:** (lesson 88) To spell a word with a consonant suffix, just add the suffix to the end of the root word.
- **Adding a Vowel Suffix-Dropping Rule:** (lesson 88) When a word ends with a silent e, drop the e before adding a vowel suffix.
- **Adding a Vowel Suffix-Doubling Rule:** (lesson 88) When the final syllable of a word is accented and ends with one vowel and one consonant, double the final consonant before adding a vowel suffix.
- **J & G Spelling Rule:** (lesson 109)
  - j before a, o, or u
  - g before e, i, or y
- **Final /ch/ Spelling Rules:** (lesson 116)
  - tch after a short vowel
  - ch after anything else
- **Final /j/ Spelling Rule:** (lesson 117)
  - dge after a short vowel
  - ge after anything else

## Syllable Division

- How to Divide and Label a Word: (lesson 36) vc/cv
- Syllable Division Rule vccv (lesson 39) vc'/cv; vc/cv'
- Syllable Division Rule vcv (lesson 81) v'/cv; vc'/v; v/cv'
- Syllable Division Rule vc/cvc/cv (lesson 92)
- Syllable Division Rules vcccv (lesson 99) vc/ccv; vcc/cv

## Definitions for Coding and Understanding Saxon Phonics:

- **Breve**- a coding mark used to indicate a vowel's short sound
- **Cedilla**- a coding mark on the letter c to indicate a soft sound
- **Code**: to mark a word with symbols to provide information about how to pronounce it
- **Combination**- two letters that come together to make an unexpected sound (ar, er, ir, or, ur, qu, wh); **coded with an arc**
- **Digraph**- two letters that come together to make one new sound (**consonant digraphs**: ch, ck, ng, ph, sh, th; **vowel digraphs**: ai, au, aw, ay, ea, ee, ei, ew, ey, ie, oa, oo, ow, ue); **underline to code**
- **Diphthong**- two vowel sounds that come together so quickly that they are considered one syllable (oi, ou, ow, oy); **code with an arc**
- **Final, stable syllable**: a nonphonetic syllable that occurs in the final position frequently enough to be considered stable (ble, cle, dle, fle, gle, kle, ple, sle, tle, zle, tion); **code with a bracket**
- **Ghost Letter Digraphs**: two letters that make one sound; first sound is silent (gn, kn, wr); **silent letters are coded with a diagonal slash**
- **High-frequency words**: those words that occur most often in written text
- **K-back**: a coding mark consisting of a **vertical line on the back of a c** that makes the /k/ sound
- **Macron**: a coding mark used to indicate a vowel's long sound; **line drawn above a vowel saying its long name**
- **Prefix**: a letter or group of letters added to the beginning of a root word that changes the meaning or usage of the word (dis, pre, un)
- **Root word**: a word with no prefix or suffix added
- **Schwa**: a coding mark resembling an **upside-down e placed over a vowel to indicate the short u sound**
- **Sight word**: a word of which all or part does not follow phonetic rules
- **Sneaky e**: the e in the vowel rule v-e; it makes the vowel have a long sound (a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e); **coded by drawing a diagonal slash through the silent e and a macron drawn above the long vowel**
- **Suffix**: a letter or group of letters added to the end of a root word that changes the meaning or usage of the word (**vowel suffix**: ed, er, es, est, ing, y; **consonant suffix**: ful, less, ly, ness, s); **suffixes are coded by boxing in the affix added to the root word**
- **Syllable**: a word or part of a word that contains only one vowel sound and is made by one impulse of the voice; **syllables are split with a vertical line**
- **Trigraph**: three letters that come together to make one sound (dge, igh, tch); **underline trigraphs to code**
- **Twin consonants**: two identical consonants making only one sound; **coded with a diagonal slash for silent letters**
- **Voice line**: a coding mark consisting of a **horizontal line through the middle of a letter or letters**, representing a voiced sound (s, th)
- **"Wild Colt" Words**: words that only have one vowel and break the rule by sounding like a long vowel

#### other Rules or Codes:

- ai is often followed by n, l, or d
- oa is often found in one-syllable words
- v and x are never doubled
- x is never followed by an s
- no words in English end in v
- igh, ough, and augh are usually followed by a t
- add es to nouns ending in s, x, z, ch, tch, and sh to make them plural