

## Vowel Team Syllables

A) Give your students the following list of words:

Group 1:

boat    see  
pain    day  
boil    toe  
boy    loud  
food    seat

Group 2:

saw    cause  
draw    pause

Read the words in group 1.

- a) Ask your students how many vowel letters there are in each of these words. (2 because “y” in this case functions as a vowel)
  - b) Then ask them how many vowel sounds they hear in each of these words. (1)
  - c) Point out to the students that the “oi, oy, oo, ou” combinations are diphthongs. Diphthongs are “gliding vowels.”
  - d) Say the word “day” and remind the students that “ay” says the long a sound.
  - e) Now read the words in group 1 again. Do you hear the first or second vowel? (usually the first vowel)
- B) Now read the second list of words.
- a. How many vowel sounds do you hear? (1-/au/)
  - b. Ask the students how the /au/ sound is spelled. (aw/au)
  - c. If the students ask when to use which, tell them:  
**aw normally comes at the end of a word or before final “l, n, or k” (saw, dawn, bawl, hawk). Before other consonants, aw becomes au.**
  - d. Remember to tell students that although “au” is normally pronounced /au/, it has two exceptions: laugh, aunt