

# Short vowel sounds

## Objective

To learn new ways of spelling phonemes for which one or more spellings are already known: /i/ spelled 'y' when not at the end of a word and /u/ spelled 'ou'.

## Background knowledge

This section introduces additional spellings for phonemes the children learned during Key Stage 1: spelling words containing the sound /i/ spelled 'y' within words and the sound /u/ spelled 'ou'. The activities emphasise that these spellings are less common than those already learned. Other words containing 'y' for /i/ (but also some other spelling patterns that are new) include: *abysmal, amethyst, antonym, calypso, chrysalis, crystal, dyslexia/dyslexic, encrypt, hymn, hypnotise, hysterics, lynch, nymph, rhythm, syllable, sylph, sympathy, synonym, system* and *vinyl*.

## Activities

### ● Photocopiable page 28 'A pyramid in Egypt'

Invite volunteers to write up the following words: *spy, shy, sunny, shiny, gym*. Ask the class to read them aloud and what they notice about the sound of the letter 'y'. Ask which word has 'y' for the /i/ sound. Ask if they can think of any personal or family names spelled like this, for example: *Lynn, Lynda, Glyn, Sylvia, Dylan, Smyth, Sylvester, Sybil, Tyrell*. Tell them that they are going to look and listen for words like this in a list. They should then write all the words that have 'y' for the /i/ sound on the pyramid shape. After they have finished this, point out *cycle, bicycle* and *tricycle* and ask what they notice about the sounds and letters.

### ● Photocopiable page 29 'More words with y for i'

Remind the children that the /i/ sound is usually spelled 'i' but in some words it is spelled 'y'. Ask them which ones they remember from page 28. Provide word lists or cards on which are written words with the letter missing

for the /i/ sound. Ask them to fill in the missing 'y' or 'i'. They could work with a partner or group as they read the words aloud. Provide dictionaries to help with the second activity.

### ● Photocopiable page 30 'Not ow but u'

Ask the children how to spell the sound /u/. They should know 'u'. Ask if they know how to spell *young*. Write it on the board and ask which letters stand for /u/. Show the poster (see Poster notes on page 25) and point out that very few words have 'ou' for the sound /u/. Explain how the crossword clues fit the grid and why there is no '1 down' or '2 across' and so on. Mention that there shouldn't be any letters in the greyed out squares. Point out that the number in brackets after each clue is the number of letters in the answer and that all the words contain 'ou' for the /u/ sound.

## Further ideas

● **Right or wrong:** Make a set of cards with correct spellings of 'y' for /i/ words mixed with the same words spelled with 'i' where the 'y' should be. The children pick up a card, read the word and place it immediately in a 'right' or 'wrong' pile. For a more challenging game, add some words spelled with 'y' for /i/ where there should be 'i' (and some correct ones), for example: *simple, symple; tingle, tyngle; single, syngle; filter, fylter*. Repeat the above for 'ou' for /u/ words.

● **Rhyme it:** Make up silly rhymes using words that contain 'ou' for /u/, for example: *Mr Hubble blew a bubble/With some trouble he blew a double bubble; 'My lungs are young,' said Mr Chung; Mrs Young swung from a rung; Mrs Young clung to the rung.*

## Digital content

On the digital component you will find:

- Printable versions of all three photocopiable pages.
- Answers to all three photocopiable pages.

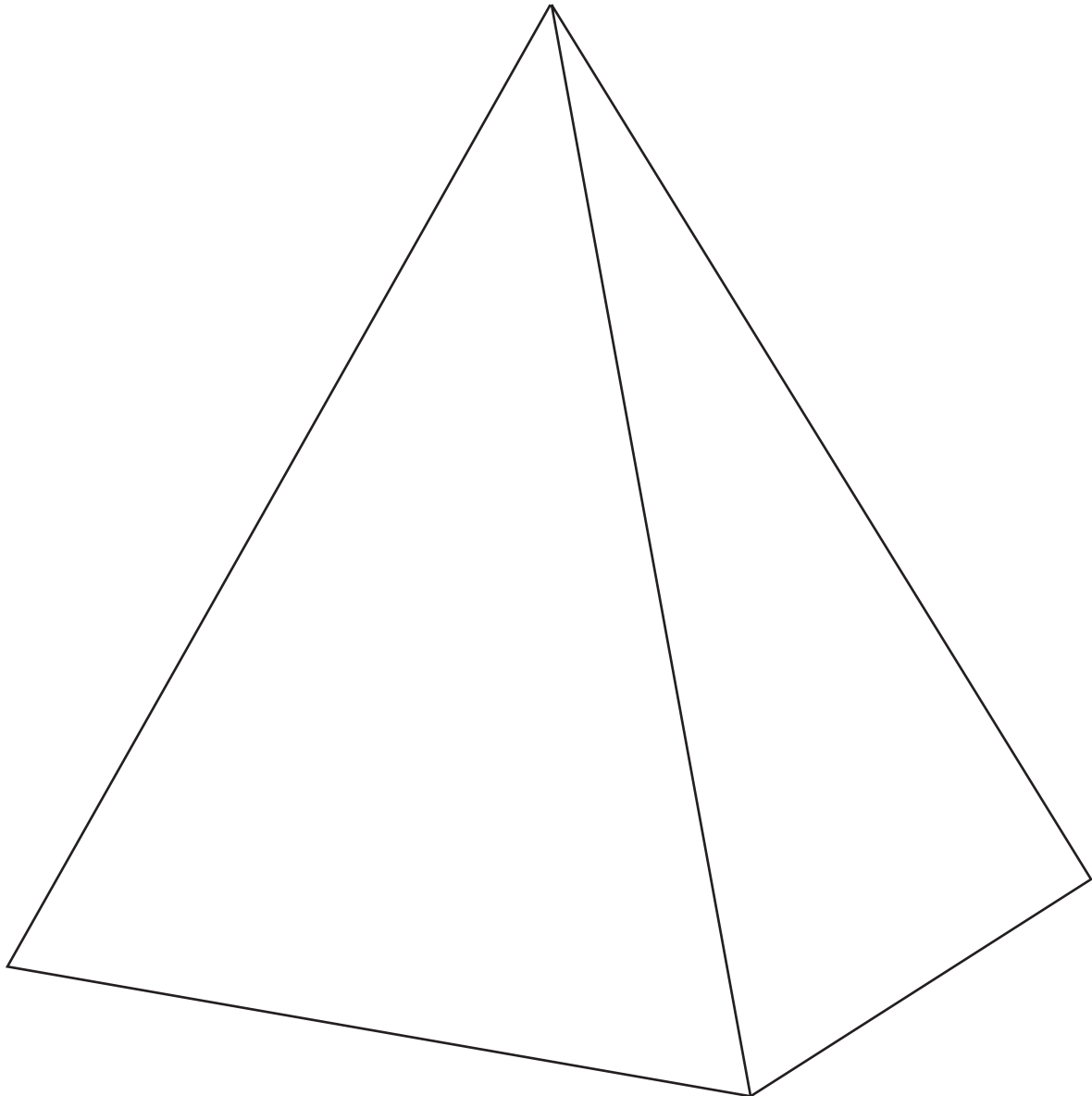
## Short vowel sounds

# A pyramid in Egypt

- Say these words and names and listen to the y sound.

cry	myth	funny	type	pastry	gym
Egypt	entry	Sylvia	any	dry	Andy
byre	cycle	pyramid	easy	tasty	tricycle
mystery	silly	typical	tyre	tricky	Dylan

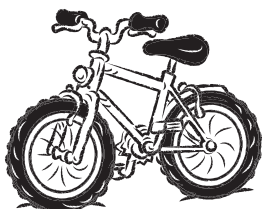
- If the y sounds like /i/ in *bit*, write the word on the pyramid.



## Short vowel sounds

# More words with y for i

- Complete the words with y.
- Look them up in a dictionary, if you need to.
- Say the words.



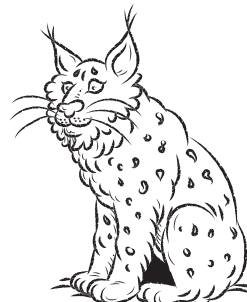
bic\_\_cle



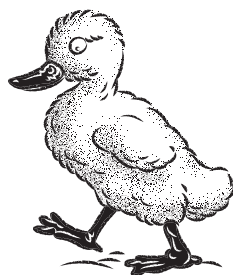
s\_\_camore tree



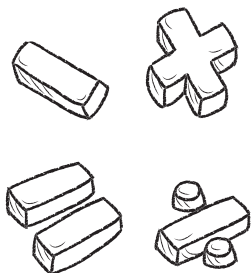
l\_\_ch gate



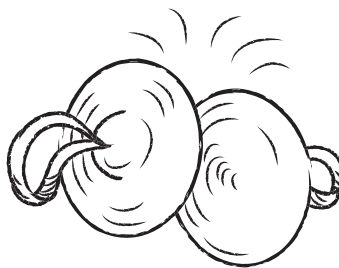
l\_\_nx



c\_\_gnet



s\_\_mbols



c\_\_mbals



c\_\_linder

- Add the missing y.

g\_\_mkhana

d\_\_nasty

cr\_\_pt

ab\_\_ss

ph\_\_sics

- Write the words to match the definitions. Use the words in the box.

A science: \_\_\_\_\_

A horse-riding competition: \_\_\_\_\_

An old family of many generations: \_\_\_\_\_

The underground part of a church: \_\_\_\_\_

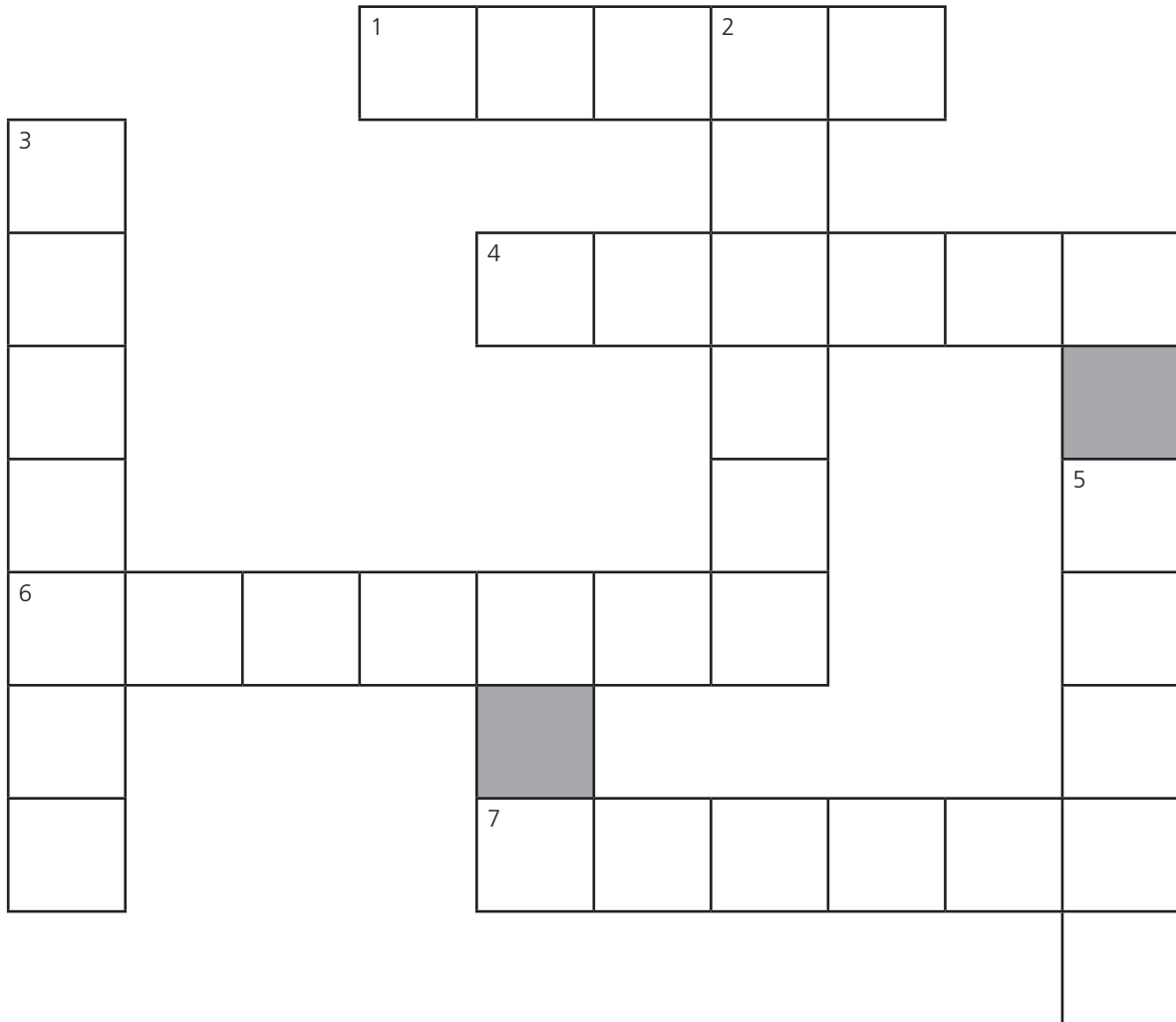
A deep hole among mountains: \_\_\_\_\_

# Short vowel sounds

## Not ow but u

A few words have **ou** for the /u/ sound.

■ Write the words in the crossword by finding the answers to the clues.



### Clues

#### Across

1. Your skin helps with this sense. (5)
4. If you multiply by 2 you do this. (6)
6. A spot of bother. (7)
7. A son or daughter of your mother or father's brother or sister is your \_\_\_\_\_. (6)

#### Down

2. A pair. (6)
3. England is one; so is France. (7)
5. The opposite to old. (5)