Focused Practice for Reading Independence

- Digraphs and diphthongs
- Acronyms
- Analogies
- Greek and Latin roots
- Frequently used foreign words
- Answer key

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Word Study and Phonics
Grade 6
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Lesson 1.1 Hard and Soft c and g

The letters c and g can make a hard sound, as in candle and ground. When followed by e, i, or y, they can make a soft sound, as in gerbil and fancy.

Read each bold word. Decide whether it has a hard or soft sound and underline the word beside it that has the same sound.

1. gateway gypsy began fragile
2. coliseum receipt cider because
3. tragic forgotten legend gopher
4. gardenia gesture segment vegetable
5. collaborate electric sincerely cinder

On the line next to each bold word below, write HC (hard c), HG (hard g), SC (soft c), or SG (soft g) to show which sound the word contains.

1. A comet ________________ is a body in the solar system that is made of ice ________________, dust, and gases.

2. The word comet has its origins ________________ in Latin and Greek ________________. It means hairy one or hairy star.

3. Before scientists ________________ had determined what comets were, many people considered ________________ them to be bad omens.

4. A comet that travels close to the sun is visible from Earth as an object ________________ that glows ________________ with a long, streaming tail.

5. The forces ________________ of the sun, including pressure and solar wind, cause ________________ a comet’s tail to form from gas ________________ and dust.

6. For this reason, the tail generally ________________ points away from the sun.

7. Halley’s comet, which appears approximately once ________________ every 76 years, was last seen in 1986.
Lesson 1.1 Hard and Soft c and g

Read the paragraphs below. Write the words that contain the hard and soft c and g sounds in the correct columns. You do not need to list the same word more than once unless it can be listed in more than one category.

Anyone who has ever seen a geyser is sure to agree that geysers are one of the wonders of the natural world. A geyser is a type of hot spring that shoots streams of water and steam directly into the air. Geysers exist in only a few regions on Earth, including Japan, Iceland, and New Zealand. The largest geyser field in the world, however, is located here in the United States at Yellowstone National Park. Approximately 400 geysers steam, bubble, and gurgle at Yellowstone!

Geysers occur when water seeps underground and is heated by magma, or molten rock. The steam and boiling water are trapped by cooler water in tube-like passages underground. Pressure continues to build, and eventually water and steam shoot out of the geyser in a giant burst. The remaining water in the geyser cools down so that it is no longer boiling, and the eruption ends. As the water seeps back into the earth, the whole cycle begins again.

The eruptions of some geysers are predictable. Yellowstone’s Old Faithful erupts about every 80 minutes and shoots as much as 8,500 gallons of boiling water nearly 200 feet in the air. It’s quite a spectacle to see, and tourists are often on hand to witness the amazing event—at a safe distance.

Hard g: ____________________ ____________________ ____________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Soft g: ____________________ ____________________ ____________________
______________________________________________________________

Hard c: ____________________ ____________________ ____________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Soft c: ____________________ ____________________ ____________________
**Lesson 1.2** The Sounds of **s**

The letter **s** can make several different sounds.
- It can make the **/s/** sound, as in *salute*.
- It can make the **/z/** sound, as in *positive*.
- It can make the **/sh/** sound, as in *insurance*.
- It can make the **/zh/** sound, as in *usually*.

Read each set of words below. On the line, write the letters of the two words in which **s** makes the same sound.

1. ____  a. fusion       b. sandbox       c. museum       d. casual
2. ____  a. reasoning     b. sanctuary     c. includes     d. tissue
3. ____  a. scurry         b. composed     c. intermission d. surely
4. ____  a. cheese         b. trustworthy c. tremendous d. measure
5. ____  a. vision         b. explanations c. scuba       d. Asia
6. ____  a. superior       b. headquarters c. sugary      d. pleasing
7. ____  a. observation     b. pleasurable c. treasure    d. tension
8. ____  a. harness        b. erosion     c. sophomore d. ours

Read the words in the box. Write each word under the correct heading below.

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<td>visionary</td>
<td>permission</td>
<td>casually</td>
<td>restless</td>
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**/s/** sound          **/z/** sound          **/zh/** sound          **/sh/** sound
Lesson 1.2  The Sounds of s

On the line, write the s sound you hear in each bold word. Choose from /s/ (as in soup), /z/ (as in these), /zh/ (as in invasion), and /sh/ (as in mission).

Pam Muñoz Ryan has written many different types of books. Writing about a diverse group of topics keeps things fresh and interesting for her. She gets her ideas from moments in history, stories she hears on the news, and sometimes even from her family. For example, Ryan’s picture book Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride is based on a flight that Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt took over Washington D.C. In the novel Esperanza Rising, Ryan tells a fictionalized version of her grandmother’s journey from Mexico to the United States.

Ryan also keeps an idea file. She jots down notes on scraps of paper, napkins, and the backs of receipts. When she is ready to begin a new project, she can flip through her file and look for story ideas that are unusual or ones that she feels especially passionate about.

When Ryan speaks to children at libraries or schools, she tries to give them a realistic picture of what it’s like to be a writer. She doesn’t want them to get the impression that a writer’s life is strictly glamorous. She reminds her audience that working from home isn’t usually the leisurely pastime that some imagine it to be.
Complete each riddle below with a word from the box. The word you choose should make sense in the riddle and contain the correct sound shown in parentheses.

**Q:** Why is a river rich?

**A:** __________________ it has two banks (hard c)

**Q:** Why did the boy close the ____________ door quickly? (soft g)

**A:** Because he saw the salad dressing

**Q:** Where do frozen ants come from?

**A:** ________________ (hard c)

**Q:** What do you get if you cross a ______________ and a parrot? (soft c)

**A:** A walkie-talkie

**Q:** What year do ______________ like best? (hard g)

**A:** Leap year

**Q:** Why was ______________ thrown off the baseball team? (soft c)

**A:** Because she ran away from the ball

Read the word pairs below. Underline the c or g sound you hear in both words.

1. gingerbread       geometric       hard g     soft g
2. juggling          guardian        hard g     soft g
3. village           generally       hard g     soft g
4. climate           counterclockwise hard c     soft c
5. circulation       reception       hard c     soft c
6. convey            occasional      hard c     soft c
Unscramble the bold letters and write the word that matches each clue. The hint in parentheses will tell you which sound of s the word contains.

1. unique; not common **uusalun** (/zh/)

2. garments; covering for the body **oceslth** (/z/)

3. protection against loss from fire or death **isurncena** (/sh/)

4. an antonym for negative **tipsiove** (/z/)

5. a small spoon **onastepo** (/s/)

Circle the 4 words below that contain the /sh/ sound of s and underline the 14 words that contain the /z/ sound of s. Do not mark the same word twice.

Dear Diary,

My grandparents gave me a season pass to the art museum for a birthday present this year. It’s only four subway stops away from our new apartment, so I can visit as frequently as I like. I’ve been there several times on field trips, but it is so large, that I think it would take a whole lifetime to know every piece of art. The new expansion will be complete this spring, and I can’t wait to see what has changed.

When Isabel and I go this weekend, I’d like to spend some time looking at the work of the Impressionists. In Mr. Yang’s class, we recently learned about the issue that a group of artists had in France during the late 1800s. The French Academy was powerful, and they pressured artists to create certain types of work. The group that would later become known as the Impressionists had their own vision of what art could be. Maybe someday I’ll have the pleasure of seeing my own artwork hanging proudly on those same walls.
Lesson 1.3 Consonant Digraphs

A digraph is a blend of two consonants that form a new sound.
• The digraph sh makes the /sh/ sound in eggshell.
• The digraph ch can make the /ch/, /sh/, or /k/ sound, as in charcoal, chauffeur, and chemistry.

Read the sentences below. On each line, write the sound (/sh/, /ch/, or /k/) the digraph makes in the bold word.

1. In March ____________, Alena’s cousin Chris ____________ came to visit.
2. Alena’s family had just adopted Charlotte ____________, a bloodhound.
3. “She’s a bit shy ____________,” Alena advised her cousin as she unlatched ____________ the leash ____________.
4. “She’s ____________ beautiful,” commented Chris. “Did you research ____________ dog breeds before you chose ____________ her?”
5. Alena nodded. “The chef ____________ at my stepdad’s restaurant told us about a shelter ____________ in Chicago ____________ that rescues bloodhounds.”
6. “The skin around the eyes and ears captures scents. Bloodhounds have a sharp ____________ sense of smell and are excellent tracking dogs.”
7. “What kind of character ____________ do they have?” asked Chris.
8. “They tend to be cheerful ____________ and easygoing,” replied Alena.
9. “She doesn’t like chipmunks ____________ or men with mustaches ____________,” continued Alena with a grin, “but other than that, she’s been in a chronic ____________ good mood since we got her.”
Lesson 1.3 Consonant Digraphs

- The digraph *th* can make the unvoiced sound (/th/), as in *thumb*, and the voiced sound (/ð/), as in *bother*.
- The digraph *wh* can make the /hw/ sound, as in *whitewash*, and the /h/ sound, as in *wholesale*.
- The digraph *ph* makes the /f/ sound, as in *photocopy*.

Read the clues below. On the line, write the word from the box that matches the clue and has the sound listed in parentheses. Then, find each word in the word search puzzle. Words may be written forward, backward, or diagonally.

**theater**     **Philippines**     **northern**     **whimper**     **sympathy**     **wholesome**     **pharmacy**

1. a place where people go to watch a movie (/th/) ________________
2. an antonym for *southern* (/th/) ________________
3. a country in southeast Asia that has thousands of islands (/f/) ________________
4. healthful; nutritious (/h/) ________________
5. a feeling of pity or sorrow for another person (/th/) ________________
6. a weak, whining sort of cry (/hw/) ________________
7. a place where people go to buy prescription medicine (/f/) ________________

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Lesson 1.3 Consonant Digraphs

The digraphs ck, ng, and gh can come in the middle or at the end of a word.
• The digraph ck makes the /k/ sound, as in speckled.
• The digraph ng makes the /ng/ sound, as in amazing.
• The digraph gh can make the /f/ sound, as in coughed.

Complete each sentence below with a word from the box. Circle the digraphs ck, ng, and gh in the words you use.

scoring block rough entering surprising hockey puck
playing enough increasing opposing wearing stick

1. __________________ is a team sport played on ice by players __________________
skates.

2. It is not really __________________ that hockey is most popular in regions of the
world that stay relatively cold, such as Canada, Finland, and Russia.

3. Because a rubber disc called a __________________ can fly at speeds of more than
100 miles per hour, hockey can be a __________________ and dangerous game.

4. Even plenty of protective equipment isn’t always __________________ to keep a
player safe.

5. A goaltender’s job is to keep the puck from __________________ the net and thus
keep the ________________ team from ________________ a point.

6. The goalie may __________________ a shot with his or her body, which is well
padded with protective gear, or he or she may use a hockey ________________
as the rest of the players do.

7. Most ice hockey teams are comprised of men, but women have played the game
since at least the 1800s. Today, the number of women ________________ the
sport is rapidly ________________.
Lesson 1.3 Consonant Digraphs

Read the paragraphs below. On each line, write the digraph (sh, ch, th, or ng) that correctly completes the bold word.

Few people would argue that life in America today isn’t fast-paced, noisy, and sometimes ______atic. Things are different, ______ough, for a group of Americans called the Ami_____. If you live in a Midwestern state, like Ohio, Indiana, or Kansas, you might be familiar with the Amish. They came to America in the early 1700s seeki______ religious freedom, and their way of life has remained relatively un_____anged since then.

The more traditional Amish are members of the Old Order. They ______un, or reject, many conveniences of modern-day life. For example, many Old Order Amish ______oose not to use electricity in their homes. ______ey travel by horse and buggy instead of usi______ automobiles. They farm and are able to produce mu______ of their food ______em selves.

The Amish are known for their stro______ sense of community. Their barn-rais______ are a famous example of what can be accompli______ed with cooperation. Hundreds of men work toge______er to raise a barn for one family. For the Old Order Amish, this means working wi______ut power tools. The women have a similar sense of cooperation and community when they ga______er to make pat______ work quilts at quilti______ bees.

The Amish are resistant to ______ange and remain separate from mainstream society in many ways. Living simply without outside influences is important to their way of life. Family, ______ildren, work, community, and spirituality are cornerstones of Amish life. Can you see any similarities between your life and the Amish way of life?