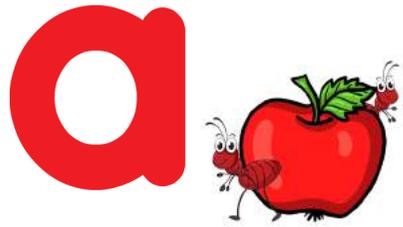


I saw some ants climbing all over the apples in my fruit bowl today.

Ants on an apple a-a-a.



ACTION — Put your hand out with palm up. Pretend there is an apple on your palm. With your other hand, bring the thumb and forefinger together into a point and jump the point around the top of the imaginary apple as if there were ants running around on it.

Birds lay eggs in nests. An egg sits in a nest until it is ready to hatch.

Eggy eggs e-e-e.



ACTION — Hold your hands high above your head and touch your fingers together so that your arms make an egg shape. Then jiggle the shape.



My brother loves to bounce his ball all day long. Bounce, bounce, bounce.

Bouncing balls b-b-b.

ACTION — Put one hand in front of you with palm flat and facing down. Pretend the hand is bouncing a ball.

Feathers are soft and fluffy and keep birds nice and warm.

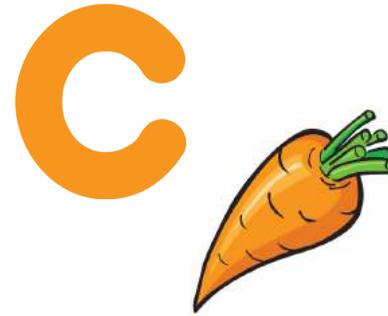
Fluffy feathers f-f-f.



ACTION — Hold your own body, smile and make a snuggling movement as if luxuriating in the warmth of your own fluffy feathers.

Carrots are very good for you. The best carrots are the crunchy ones.

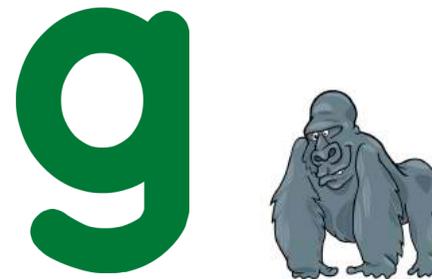
Crunchy carrots c-c-c.



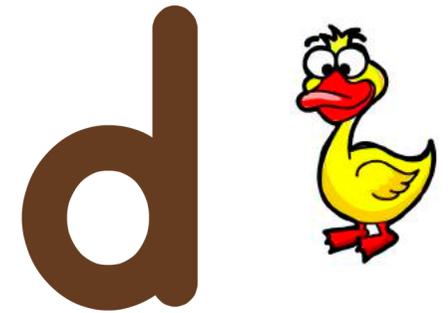
ACTION — Hold a pretend carrot in your hand and nod your head as you pretend to bite the tip of the carrot.

Gorillas like to play with each other and do tricks which make them giggle.

Giggling gorillas g-g-g.



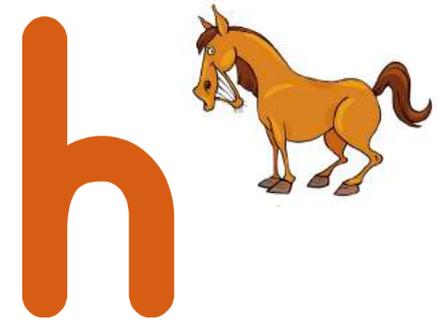
ACTION — Tickle your neck with your fingers and pretend to giggle.



Ducks like to chase each other with their wings flapping. They go round and round and get quite dizzy.

Dizzy ducks d-d-d.

ACTION — Make your head and shoulders go round and round as if dizzy.



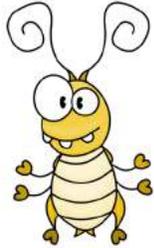
Horses are happy when they are free to run and eat grass and be with their friends. That makes them so happy.

Happy horses h-h-h.

ACTION — Make a big smiley face and raise your hands up to gallop.

Insects that live in our hair or skin make us itch and itch. It's nice for them to live on people, but not so nice for us!

Itchy insects i-i-i.



ACTION — Make your fingers scratch your hair and body.

Jellyfish look like little umbrellas. They love to jiggle and float in the water.

Jiggling jellyfish j-j-j.



ACTION — Put your hands above your head and touch your fingers together to make a frilly fingered jellyfish shape. Then jiggle your fingers.

Koalas are kind gentle animals who like to sleep and eat leaves.

Kind koalas k-k-k.



ACTION — Put your hands either side of your face. Smile sweetly and rock your face from side to side.

Did you know that lions like to rest for about 20 hours a day? They just love being lazy and lying around with their friends.

Lazy lions l-l-l.



ACTION — Yawn with sleepy eyes.

Monkeys love to play games and tricks on each other. They get into mischief and make all kinds of messes.

Messy monkeys m-m-m.



ACTION — Raise your arm. Put the hand of your non-raised arm under your raised arm's arm-pit and tickle yourself.

Nurses help people to be healthy. They are very busy people and they have to move nimbly to see all their patients.

Nimble nurses n-n-n.



ACTION — Put two fingers on your wrist the way a nurse does when your pulse is taken. Then switch to the other wrist and do the same. Swap back and forth between wrists several times nimbly.

Did you know that octopuses can change their colour to hide from enemies? They can be blue or green or brown, but my favourite colour octopus is orange.

Orange octopus o-o-o.



ACTION — Put your arms by your sides and rock your body as if you were an octopus swimming up. Fan your hands up and down from the wrists in a swimming motion as you rock your body.

Popcorn is a perfect snack. It's fun when it's in the pan going pop, pop, pop.

Popping popcorn p-p-p.



ACTION — Hold your hands shut and then open them repeatedly as if they are popping. Make your eyes look surprised each time your hands make a popping gesture.

Queens are very busy people. They have to go quickly from one event to another so that all of their people can see them.

Quick queens q-q-q.



ACTION — Make racing movements with your arms and hands as if you are running.

Umbrellas keep the rain off us but they are not good if the wind blows them upside down.

Upside down umbrellas u-u-u.



ACTION — Pretend to hold an umbrella in the air. Then be blown about, struggle and flip it upside down.

On fireworks nights, people like to fire rockets into the air and see which rockets race the fastest.

Racing rockets r-r-r.



ACTION — Point the pointing fingers of both hands up into the air.

Vultures are large birds that feed on dead animals. They have to be vicious with their claws and beaks to tear their food apart.

Vicious vultures v-v-v.



ACTION — Make your hands into claws and claw the air like you are tearing at something.

Our closest star is the sun. Stars are super hot, super big and super bright.

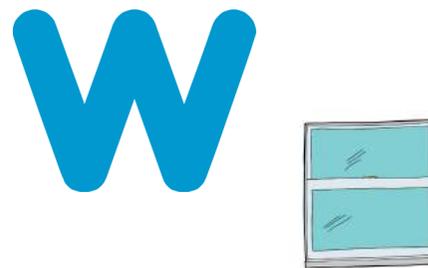
Super stars s-s-s.



ACTION — Bring your arms up and out to indicate the vast size of the star.

I have to wash my windows when they get dirty. I get my cloth and wash the glass round and round.

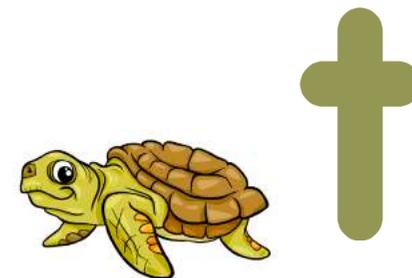
Washing windows w-w-w.



ACTION — Hold an imaginary cloth and make circular motions with it as if washing a window.

Did you know that turtles can be big or small? Some turtles are teeny tiny, as tiny as my finger.

Tiny turtles t-t-t.



ACTION — Bring your finger and thumb together to indicate something tiny.

Exercise is so good for your body. It keeps it healthy. Exercise is really excellent when it works your body and you have fun too.

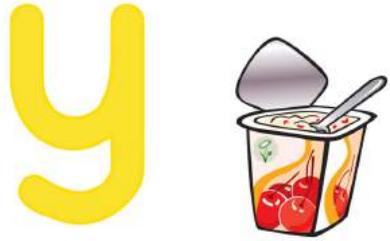
Excellent exercise x-x-x.



ACTION — Do several jumping jacks so that your body makes an 'x' shape when your arms and legs are outstretched.

Yogurt is yummy when you stir fruit through it. It's so yummy that I eat spoonfuls and spoonfuls of it.

Yummy yogurt y-y-y.



ACTION — Pretend to hold a cup of yogurt with one hand and, with the other, pretend to take spoonfuls of yogurt into your mouth.

Zebras run from side to side when chased by a predator. They zip about to get away.

Zippy zebras z-z-z.



ACTION — Point your forefinger straight ahead in front of you and make it zigzag from one side to another quickly.

I feel cheerful when I sit in a nice comfortable chair.

Cheerful in a chair ch-ch-ch.



ACTION — Fold your arms, smile and recline back a little as if you are sitting in a nice comfortable chair. Rock back and forwards on each 'ch'.

Mum took me to the shop before it shut to show me a shirt she wanted to buy me.

Shopping for shirts sh-sh-sh.



ACTION — Each time you say 'sh', twist your fingers as if you are doing up the top button, then the middle button and then the bottom button of a shirt you are wearing.

Thumbs are so useful. By turning your thumb up or down you can show if you like something or if you don't.

That's my thumb th-th-th.



ACTION — Put your hand out in front of you with your thumb up. Each time you say 'th', push it outwards away from yourself in rhythm with the 'th'.

Why the mnemonic for x is exercise

As no word starts with the sound that 'x' makes, the key picture is of exercise. In the word 'exercise', the 'x' sound is the second and not the first sound in the word. To avoid any confusion, please explain this point to your students.

Other accompanying resources to support your teaching of Stage 2 phonics using these mnemonics

- Letter and Mnemonic Cards (A5, A6 and pocket sized)
- playdough mats
- A3 'My Phonics/Words Card' for use in shared writing
- individual A5 'My Phonics/Words Card' for students to use for independence at writing
- alphabet frieze



Available from: yolandasoryl.com