

Split Dictation with Vowel Teams 'ai' and 'ay'

In this activity, the teacher dictates words that have the long 'a' sound, /ā/, and students decide whether the words are spelled with 'ai' and 'ay'.

Materials:

- copies of 'ai' and 'ay' split dictation sheet
- pencil

Directions:

1. Tell students that you are going to dictate words that end in the long 'a' sound, /ā/. Explain that they will need to decide when to use 'ai' and 'ay' and then write the word in the correct column on their dictation paper.
2. Say the word and have students repeat it.
3. Tap each sound in the word.
4. Talk through the process of determining whether to use 'ai' and 'ay' at the end of the word with your students:
 - What vowel sound do you hear in the word?
 - Where is the long 'a' sound?
 - If it is at the beginning or in the middle, we use 'ai'.
 - If it is at the end, we use 'ay'.
5. Students write the word in the correct column.
6. Check together.
7. Read back the words together and correct as needed.
8. You can scaffold and lessen your explanations on how to determine which spelling to use as students display understanding.

Words for Split Dictation: When dictating the words below, switch between columns so that students have to vary the spelling they choose as correct. You can also choose words from the [Vowel Teams 'ay' and 'ai': List of Words, Phrases, and Sentences for Lesson Planning](#).

ai	ay
hail	bay
plain	clay
gain	may
braid	stay
wait	spray

Name _____ Date _____

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Write the word in the correct column.

'ai'	'ay'