



# Basic Rules for Markings

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*These are some of the mnemonic marking system rules we use in kindergarten and beyond.*

1. No markings for a phonogram's first sound.
2. Underline single vowels that say their names (long vowel sounds) in a word.
3. Underline multiple-letter phonograms.  
(This does not apply to blends in which each letter is heard as in br or str.)
4. Place a small numeral above phonograms to indicate which sound is being said only if it is not the first sound, its long sound according to #2 above, or a spelling rule does not explain its use.  
(More on that last one later.)
5. Some words will be bracketed to show similarity or peculiarity of spelling .
6. Carets are used to indicate "think to spell" phonograms. Many words in English are pronounced with a schwa sound ("uh") . That can make it difficult to hear the sound/spelling relationship properly, so we call those words "think to spell" words.
6. Double underline silent letters and also letters when pronunciation does not follow spelling patterns.  
(For example: , yel low, bat ter, sure, sugar, exam)
7. Silent Final e Rules: See additional handout for more specific information  
  
(Write the job number next to the double underline under e)  
Job 1 – Lets the vowel say its name  
Job 2 – English words do not end with v or u ("v and u, that's job 2")  
Job 3 – Lets c and g to say their second sounds ("c and g, that's job 3")  
Job 4 – English syllables must have a written vowel  
Job 5 – No job e ("No job e, not to hear but to see")