**Importance of Teaching Short Vowels First**

Always teach students the short vowels before the long vowels.

Besides the fact that the short vowels are more difficult to remember than the long vowels, they are also the most common vowels students will come across at first, while they’re reading.

**Visual Clues**

For ***visual learners***, consider using picture clues to help them remember the short vowel sounds.

Example, you can make the letter

* “a" look like an apple with a stem off to the side.
* “e" can look like an elephant with a trunk,
* “i" can look like two insects (a worm and a flea),
* “o" can look like the head of an octopus, and
* “u" can look like the hook of an umbrella. Embellish each picture as necessary.