

Lesson

1.9

R-Controlled Vowels (*er*, *ir*, *ur*), Less Common R-Controlled Vowels, and L-Controlled Vowels

Opening

In our last lesson, we discussed the *r*-controlled vowels *ar* and *or*. Today we'll discuss several other *r*-controlled vowels.

Objective

Students will learn *er*, *ir*, *ur* and several less common *r*-controlled vowels. They will also learn about *l*-controlled vowels.

Procedure

R-Controlled Vowels *er*, *ir*, *ur*

Tell students that *er*, *ir*, and *ur* all say the same /er/ sound, as in *her*, *bird*, and *fur*.

Have students **read** and **spell** words that fit each of the following patterns:

***er* (as in *fern*)**

fern	perch	jerk	stern	servant
her	berth	serf	tern	serge
term	verse	lantern	winter	merge

***ir* (as in *bird*)**

bird	birth	shirt	squirt	thirsty
girl	chirp	firm	squirrel	thirty
first	twirl	thirst	skirmish	confirm

***ur* (as in *nurse*)**

nurse	blur	turn	turtle	further
purse	sturdy	hurt	nursery	murder
church	curve	curl	purple	disturb
bust	urge	curly	hurling	churning

Less Common R-Controlled Vowels

Introduce the following less common *r*-controlled patterns. Have students **read** and **spell** these words:

ear /er/

earn

learn

heard

earth

rehearse

ear /air/

bear

wear

pear

tear

er/err

perish

berry

merry

ar/arr

parish

garish

barbarian

marry

L-Controlled Vowels

With the *l*-controlled vowel *a*, the letter *a* rarely gets a short sound before *l*. Write these words on the board and ask children to **read** them:

fall

falter

call

tall

halter

wall

Words containing the letter *u* followed by *ll* (e.g., *bull*, *pull*, and *full*) often must be memorized.

Closing

- **What are the major vowel *r* patterns?** (er, ar, er, ir, ur)
- **What are the common *l*-controlled vowels?** (al, all)

Follow-Up

- Have students look for *r*-controlled and/or *l*-controlled vowel patterns in their literature or textbooks.
- Have students complete the activities in Handout 1.9.

Handout
1.9

**R-Controlled Vowels
(er, ir, ur), Less
Common R-Controlled
Vowels, and
L-Controlled Vowels**

Reminder

Er, ir, ur, and sometimes ear have the sound /ûr/, as in her, girl, fur, and heard.

Activities

1. Read the words below:

bird	curl	her	pearl	girl
fern	church	heard	chirp	blur
purse	tern	churn	learn	stern
germ	earn	birth	search	skirt

2. Write the words above in the corresponding columns below:

er	ir	ur	ear
<u>her</u>	<u>bird</u>	<u>curl</u>	<u>pearl</u>
<u>fern</u>	<u>girl</u>	<u>church</u>	<u>heard</u>
<u>tern</u>	<u>chirp</u>	<u>blur</u>	<u>learn</u>
<u>stern</u>	<u>birth</u>	<u>purse</u>	<u>earn</u>
<u>germ</u>	<u>skirt</u>	<u>churn</u>	<u>search</u>

3. Write 3 sentences containing at least 2 /ûr/ words:

- a. **Ex: The girls were all in first grade.** _____
- b. **Ex: Put the ferns in front of the church.** _____
- c. **Ex: We heard the birds chirping outside.** _____