

SORT 25 AR, ARE, AIR

Demonstrate

There are 23 words in this *r*-influenced sort. Read and discuss the words before sorting, paying particular attention to the homophones (see asterisked words below). When you discuss these words again after the sorting, you and your students will probably conclude that all of these words are influenced by the sound of the /r/ but that they still work the same way as most short- and long-vowel patterns do.

First, sort the words into two columns by *sound*: short *-r* words that sound like /ar/ in the middle, and long *-r* words that sound like the word *air* in the middle. All of the words will fit into one of these two categories. Next, discuss the spelling patterns of most of the short *-r* words. All but one are spelled with *ar* in the middle, just as it sounds. The exception, *heart*, could be considered an oddball since it sounds like a short *-r* word but is not spelled with *ar*. Tell students that there is a homophone partner for the word *heart* spelled with an *ar*—*hart*—an old-fashioned word for a male deer. The word *heart* has a different spelling pattern since the *ar* was already taken. If you like, add the word *hart* to the short *-r* group by using the blank template in the back of the book.

Next, discuss the spelling patterns of the long-*r* group. Many patterns should be familiar to students, particularly the *are* and *air* patterns. Display the *are* and *air* pattern headers and sort the long *-r* group by these patterns. The ones that do not fit may be considered oddballs. Ask if they notice any recurring spelling pattern among the oddballs *Bear*, *wear*, and *pear* are all spelled with an *ear* pattern but have a long *-a*, not a long *-e* sound. The pattern in the word *where* is unique but necessary since *ware* and *wear* are already taken. Sort 25 should look something like this:

<i>ar</i>	<i>are</i>	<i>air</i>	<i>oddball</i>
part	care	hair*	pear*
start	pare*	fair*	wear*
harm	stare*	pair*	bear*
sharp	square*	chair	where*
dark	bare*	stair	heart*
shark	fare*		
	hare		

* homophones