Limericks and tongue twisters for learning short vowel sounds in English are presented in this illustrated booklet for speakers with limited English proficiency. After proclaiming that "English is so crazy it makes you want to cry," the book presents first the sounds of the English alphabet, then long and short vowels, a limerick for each of the five short vowels, and finally 22 tongue twisters. (LB) (Adjunct ERIC Clearinghouse on Literacy Education)
English is Crazy

Limericks and Tongue Twisters for Short Vowels

by Rosanne Keller

Literacy Council of Alaska
823 THIRD AVENUE
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
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English is so crazy
it makes you want to cry!
Alphabet

Sounds of the Alphabet

Alphabet

a - mat
a - date
a - (ah) father
a - sofa

b - baby

c - (k) come
c - (s) city
ch - chin
d - did
e - bed
e - feet
er - anger
f - five
g - get
h - had
h - (silent) honest
i - hit
i - side
ir - (er) sir
j - jet
k - kid
l - lot
m - mat
Alphabet

n - not
ng - ring

o - hot
o - bone
oi - (oy) coin, boy
oo - wood
oo - cool

p - pepper
r - red

s - sat
s - (z) raise
sh - shy

t - tin
th - they
th - thing

u - up
u - cute
v - very

w - was
wh - (hw) where
y - (ee) yard
z - zoo
zh - azure
Vowels

Long and Short
Long Vowels

a as in paper
e as in we
i as in ice
o as in go
u as in pupil

Short Vowels

a becomes ïä as in apple
e becomes ïë as in egg
i becomes ïi as in it
o becomes ïo as in hot
u becomes ïu as in up
Short Vowel a

a-a-a-a-a

Short Vowel a with other letters

ap__ at__ ab__
ad__ af__ am__
an__ av__ ag__

Short Vowel a in words

fat__           black__           tack__
rat__           cat__             back__
Matt__          bat__             mat__
pat__           jab__             dab__
sat__           dab__             lab__
Short Vowel e

  e-e-e-e-e

Short Vowel e with other letters

  ep___ et___ eb___
  ed___ ef___ em___
  en___ ev___ eg___

Short Vowel e in words

  red___       hen___       Nell___
  wet___       fell___       well___
  net___       get___         peck___
  neck___      tell___        beg___
  let___       set___         wed___
  never___     clever___      stead___
Short Vowel i
i-ii-i-i-i

Short Vowel i with other letters
ip____ it____ ib____
id____ if____ im____
in____ iv____ ig____

Short Vowel i in words
Bill____ Wills____ glib____
fibber____ libber____ sip____
tip____ filled____ brim____
bibber____ this____ kiss____
dishes____ wishes____ hip____
miss____
Short Vowel o

\[ \text{o-o-o-o-o} \]

Short Vowel o with other letters

- op____ ot____ ob____
- od____ of____ om____
- on____ ov____ og____

Short Vowel o in words

- jogged____
- Tom____
- sock____
- got____
- jock____
- rot____
- togs____
- top____
- got____
- stop____
- boppeu____
- hot____
- holler____
- hock____
- dock____
- rocks____
- sob____
- gob____
- drop____
- aplomb____
- shop____
Short Vowel u

u-u-u-u-u

Short Vowel u with other letters

up___ ut___ ub___
ud___ uf___ um___
un___ uv___ ug___

Short Vowel u in words

dumb___
duck___
gum___
fluff___
muck___
huff___
stick___
fuzz___
buzz___
chewing___
buff___
struck___
luck___
hugged___
up___
result___
funny___
hum___
sunny___
Limericks

ā ē ĭ ō ŭ

English Sounds Crazy!
There was once a fat rat named Matt.  
And a black cat who had a big bat.  
The rat put a tack  
When the cat turned his back  
On the mat where the black cat sat.  

The cat gave his bat a big pat,  
and sat down to observe the fat rat.  
He leaned back a dab  
And got a bad jab  
And Matt the fat rat got a laugh!
There was once a red hen named Nell,
Who got wet when she fell in a well.
Fred fox got a net,
Pulled her out just to get
A wet peck on the neck...we hear tell.

Fred begged Nell to be his...so he said.
And he let her get set to be wed.
But the wedding was never
Because foxes are clever.
She was found on his table instead!
Bill Wills is a very glib fibber. 
And his girl is a big women's libber. 
He tells of a sip, 
But she knows from a tip 
That he's filled to the brim, the wine bibber!

Bill's girl has a plan...it is this... 
She goes off to work with a kiss. 
Then Bill does the dishes 
And sometimes he wishes 
His girl wasn't such a hip miss!
As he jogged on the top of the dock,
Tom got some rocks in his sock.
He stopped with a sob,
Got out rocks by the gob
Then bopped on down the dock like a jock.

The dock it was hot up on top.
And Tom thought that he surely would drop.
"This is rot," hollered Tom.
And he turned with aplomb...
Dropped his jogging togs at a hock shop!
A dumb duck got some gum in his fluff.  
The muck put the duck in a huff.  
A bee'eyed the stuck fuzz,  
Pulled the gum with a buzz.  
For the bee was a chewing gum buff.  

The bee, quite struck with his luck,  
Buzzed down and hugged up the duck.  
The result wasn't funny  
For when dark or when sunny,  
The hum of the bee is gummed up.
Tongue Twisters
The sixth sheep is sick.
Grow green Greek grapes.
Top truck traffic trap.
A kiss may be amiss
   But a miss who misses kisses
   May miss being a Mrs.
Fred fries five flying fish.
A cup of coffee in a copper coffee pot.
She sells seashells by the seashore.
A big black bug bit a big black bird.
Thin sticks, thick bricks.
Water is wetter in winter weather.
Sixty-six chicks are sick.
A quick slick kick or a slick quick kick?
A big blue barrel of big blue blueberries.
Rubber baby buggy bumpers.
Is the watch shop shut?
He threw thirty-three thumbtacks.
Does this shop sell socks with spots?
Kiss her quickly, then quicker.
The rat ran into the river with the liver.
Children should choose cheese.
Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
   If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
   Where is the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?
How much wood would a woodchuck chuck,
   If a woodchuck could chuck wood?