

Word Pattern Detectives

Sort words by whether their spellings follow familiar patterns.

5.F.F.1.a "Increase sight word vocabulary by reading regularly and irregularly spelled words in isolation and context with accuracy and automaticity."

NAME _____

DATE _____

REGULAR SPELLING

A regularly spelled word follows familiar sound and spelling patterns. You can usually sound it out.

camping

IRREGULAR SPELLING

An irregularly spelled word has a sound or spelling part that does not follow the pattern you expect. You may need to remember that part.

through

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1: Read the bold word in each item and circle REGULAR or IRREGULAR; Part 2: Choose two words and explain which spelling pattern or unexpected part helped you sort each one.

1. **magnet**

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

2. I **said** hello.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

3. The **people** clapped.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

4. **sunset**

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

5. The **rabbit** hid.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

6. **floating**

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

7. We **could** wait.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

8. The **busy** bee buzzed.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Part 3: Write one new regularly spelled word and one new irregularly spelled word.

REGULAR _____

IRREGULAR _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses a regularly spelled word and an irregularly spelled word. Label each word.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	**magnet**	REGULAR	The word follows familiar consonant and short-vowel patterns.
2	I **said** hello.	IRREGULAR	The letters ai make the unexpected short e sound.
3	The **people** clapped.	IRREGULAR	The vowel spelling does not match a familiar expected sound pattern.
4	**sunset**	REGULAR	This compound word has familiar sound-spelling patterns.
5	The **rabbit** hid.	REGULAR	The word follows familiar short-vowel and consonant patterns.
6	**floating**	REGULAR	The oa vowel team and the ending -ing follow familiar patterns.
7	We **could** wait.	IRREGULAR	The l is silent, and ou has an unexpected sound.
8	The **busy** bee buzzed.	IRREGULAR	The letter u makes an unexpected short i sound.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **REGULAR:** joyful
- **IRREGULAR:** once

Challenge: The [REGULAR] playful puppy followed the [IRREGULAR] women.

Answers are sorted by the bold word. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a familiar spelling pattern for a regular word or an unexpected sound-spelling part for an irregular word.