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Instructions for Americana Lessons 1–14

Lessons 1 and 2: Vowel Chunks

- Read the passage on the left-hand page together, following the directions carefully. Be prepared to spend a little more time in the beginning until you and your student become familiar with the core activities.
- Lesson 1 introduces vowel chunks. The vowels are *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*, and sometimes *y* and *w*. A vowel chunk is a combination of vowels that usually make one sound in a word. Examples are *ea*, *oo*, and *ou*. Focusing on letter patterns in the context of a story helps a student learn the irregular sounds of the English language. A complete list of vowel chunks can be found on page 21.
- Have the student use a yellow pencil or highlighter to mark or circle the vowel chunks. As you move through *Americana*, different letter patterns will be assigned different colors. Using these colors consistently will help your student visually learn the spelling patterns. Use the color-coded **Answer Key** in this *Handbook* to make sure the chunking is complete on each page.
- Even though the same passage is repeated throughout the lesson, the student should mark the vowel chunks each day in order to reinforce the spelling patterns. On the first three days, after the student has marked the vowel chunks in the passage, have her copy the passage on the lines provided, stopping after 10 minutes. Then help her mark the vowel chunks on her written copy, using the left-hand page for a guide as needed.
- On Day 4, you will dictate the passage for your student to write. Cover the left-hand page in the workbook with a piece of paper and read the story from the **Resources** section in this *Handbook*. Tell the student to relax and not worry; you will provide all punctuation and capitalization and help him with difficult words. You will do this activity for just 10 minutes—no more! Read the passage word by word and have your student continue writing until he struggles with a word. Stop to help, but don't stop the clock. It is important to address misspellings as they occur without worrying about time. After 10 minutes, stop and count the number of words written correctly. You can read more important information about dictation on page 24.
- On Day 5, the student will have a second opportunity to write the passage from dictation. This dictation is a little different, as you will not tell the student how to spell any words. Instead, challenge him to try difficult words

until they look right. The time spent on dictation should still be limited to 10 minutes. You may provide correct punctuation and capitalization. If the first dictation was completed easily, you may want to skip this second dictation.

1. Read the story to your student.
2. Read it together slowly. Have the student point to each word as you read.
3. Vowel chunks are a combination of vowels that usually make one sound. Help your student find and mark all the **vowel chunks** in yellow.

What is red, white, and blue?

The American flag! It has 13 red and white stripes. They stand for the first 13 colonies. It has 50 white stars in a blue rectangle. Did you know that the stars stand for our states? The flag did not always have 50 stars. The number changed each time our country added a new state.

Vowel Chunks

aa ae ai ao au aw ay
ea ee ei eo ew ey eau
ia ie ii io iu
oa oe oi oo ou ow oy
ua ue ui uo uy



Section 2: Copywork

Copy the story and mark the vowel chunks. You may look at the opposite page if you need help.

What is red, white, and blue?

W

The American flag! It has 13

T

red and white stripes. They

r

stand for the first 13 colonies.

S

It has 50 white stars in a blue

I

rectangle. Did you know that

r

the stars stand for our states?

t

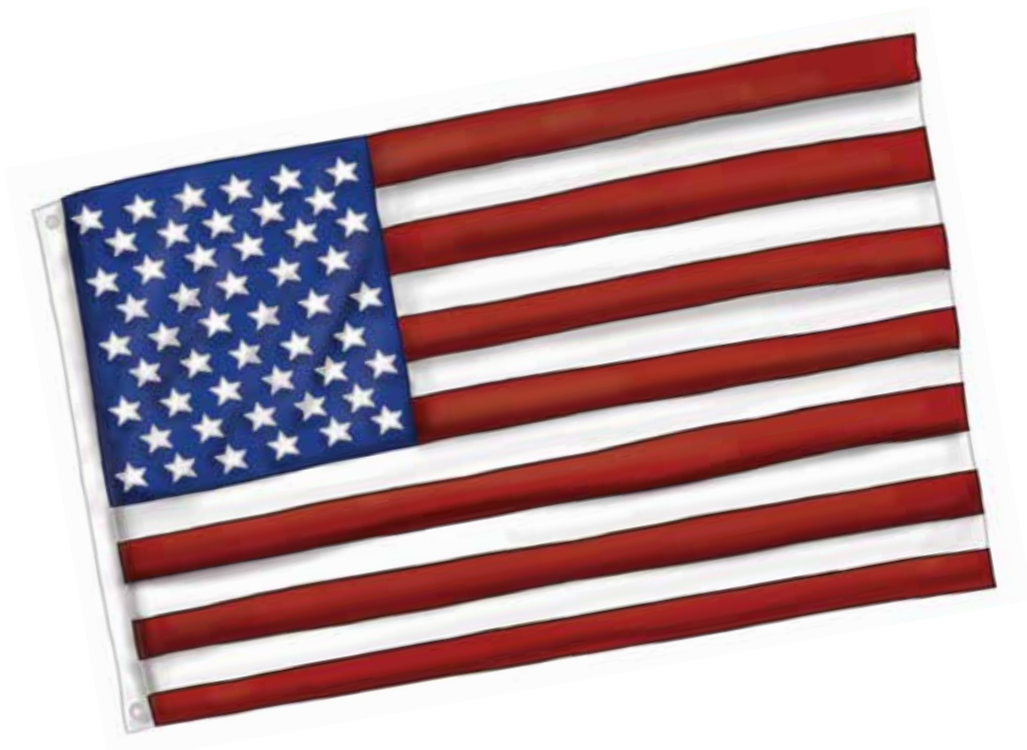
1. Read the story to your student.
2. Read it together slowly. Have the student point to each word as you read.
3. Work with your student to find all the **vowel chunks** and mark them in yellow.

What is red, white, and blue?

The American flag! It has 13 red and white stripes. They stand for the first 13 colonies. It has 50 white stars in a blue rectangle. Did you know that the stars stand for our states? The flag did not always have 50 stars. The number changed each time our country added a new state.

Vowel Chunks

aa ae ai ao au aw ay
ea ee ei eo ew ey eau
ia ie ii io iu
oa oe oi oo ou ow oy
ua ue ui uo uy



Section 2: Copywork

Copy and “chunk” the story by marking the vowel chunks. You may look at the opposite page if you need help.

It has 50 white stars in a

l

blue rectangle. Did you know

b

that the stars stand for our

t

states? The flag did not always

s

have 50 stars. The number

h

changed each time our country

c

added a new state.

a

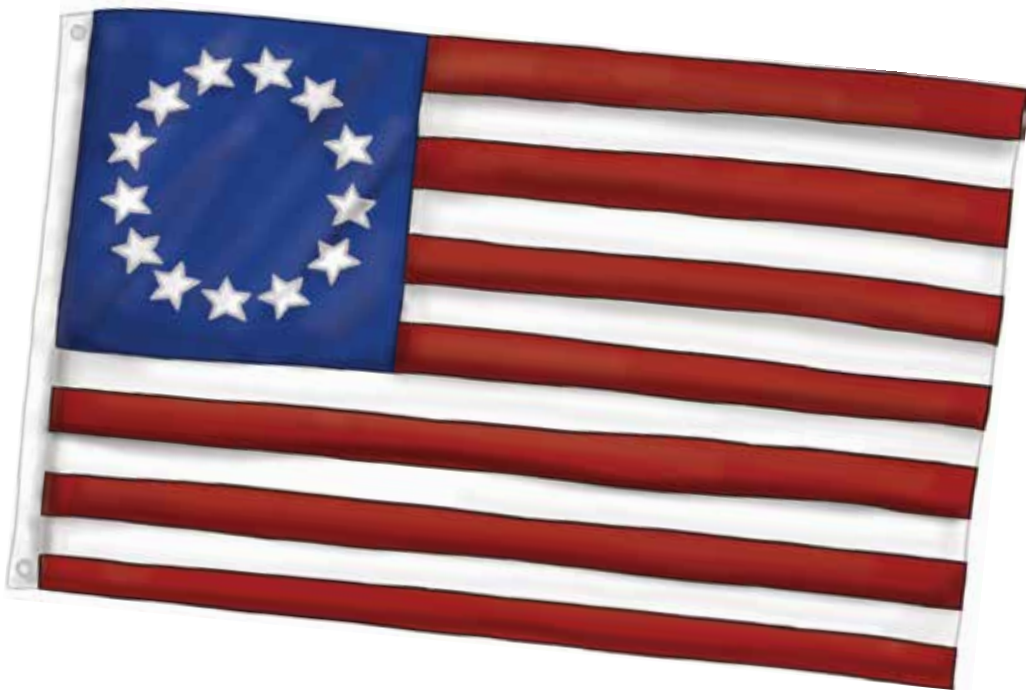
1. Read the story to your student.
2. Read it together slowly. Have the student point to each word as you read.
3. Together, find all the **vowel chunks** in the passage and mark them in yellow.

What is red, white, and blue?

The American flag! It has 13 red and white stripes. They stand for the first 13 colonies. It has 50 white stars in a blue rectangle. Did you know that the stars stand for our states? The flag did not always have 50 stars. The number changed each time our country added a new state.

Vowel Chunks

aa ae ai ao au aw ay
ea ee ei eo ew ey eau
ia ie ii io iu
oa oe oi oo ou ow oy
ua ue ui uo uy



Section 2: Copywork

Copy and chunk the story by marking the vowel chunks. You may look at the opposite page if you need help.

What is red, white, and blue?

W

The American flag! It has 13

T

red and white stripes. They

r

stand for the first 13 colonies.

S

It has 50 white stars in a blue

I

rectangle. Did you know that

r

the stars stand for our states?

t

1. Read the story to your student.
2. Read it together slowly. Have the student point to each word as you read.
3. Together, find all the **vowel chunks** in the passage and mark them in yellow.
4. All the passages in this workbook are also in the *Instructor's Handbook* under **Resources**. When dictating the passage, you may want to cover this page with a piece of paper and read the story from the *Handbook*.

What is red, white, and blue?

The American flag! It has 13 red and white stripes. They stand for the first 13 colonies. It has 50 white stars in a blue rectangle. Did you know that the stars stand for our states? The flag did not always have 50 stars. The number changed each time our country added a new state.

Vowel Chunks

aa ae ai ao au aw ay
ea ee ei eo ew ey eau
ia ie ii io iu
oa oe oi oo ou ow oy
ua ue ui uo uy



Section 2: First Dictation

Write this week's story from dictation. Ask for help if you need it.

What

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of blue top lines and green bottom lines.

1. Read the story to your student.
2. Read it together slowly. Have the student point to each word as you read.
3. Together, find all the **vowel chunks** in the passage and mark them in yellow.

What is red, white, and blue?

The American flag! It has 13 red and white stripes. They stand for the first 13 colonies. It has 50 white stars in a blue rectangle. Did you know that the stars stand for our states? The flag did not always have 50 stars. The number changed each time our country added a new state.

Vowel Chunks

aa ae ai ao au aw ay
ea ee ei eo ew ey eau
ia ie ii io iu
oa oe oi oo ou ow oy
ua ue ui uo uy



Section 2: Second Dictation

See if you can write this week's story from dictation without asking for help.

A series of 20 horizontal lines for writing, alternating between blue and green colors. The lines are arranged in pairs, with a blue line on top and a green line on the bottom of each pair. There are 10 such pairs, providing a total of 20 lines for the student to write their story.

Answer Key

Sometimes a word has overlapping chunks. For example, a vowel chunk may overlap with a Bossy *r* chunk (*heard*), or a consonant chunk may overlap with an ending (*really*). In the answer key, we have tried to remain consistent with the focus of each lesson. In lessons with multiple chunks, we marked vowel chunks before Bossy *r* chunks, but Bossy *r* chunks before consonant chunks.

If the student chooses a different chunking pattern than the one marked in the answer key, please do not consider it incorrect. Instead, take a moment to talk about the word and the overlap of chunks. You might ask the student which letter pattern he thinks would be most helpful for him to remember and let him mark that one. Remember that the goal is to create a visual memory for non-phonetic words.

1A-E Vowel Chunks

What is red, white, and blue? The American flag! It has 13 red and white stripes. They stand for the first 13 colonies. It has 50 white stars in a blue rectangle. Did you know that the stars stand for our states? The flag did not always have 50 stars. The number changed each time our country added a new state.

Vowel Chunks 12