Hello there!

Hi, I'm Jen Bengel, the creator behind the Out of This World Literacy™ curriculum. I started developing these resources in 2012 while working as a Literacy Collaborative Coordinator, driven by a passion to support teachers with meaningful, research-based materials.

At the time, I was leading a lot of theory-heavy professional development, but the teachers I worked with were craving practical, ready-to-use support. So, I spent that summer—yes, in my pajamas!—writing the very first reading and writing unit. And just like that, Out of This World Literacy™ was born!

I specialize in designing literacy resources for older students who need continued support with foundational reading skills. My materials are thoughtfully created to be age-appropriate, respectful, and engaging—never babyish. My goal is to empower striving readers by helping them build confidence, strengthen their skills, and experience success without shame. I believe every learner deserves the dignity of materials that honor where they are and support where they're going.

My Educational Background Includes:

1. A **Bachelors Degree** in Elementary Education (K-8)
   *** University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh*
2. A **Graduate Degree** in Reading Education (K-12)
   *** University of South Alabama*
3. A **Post-Graduate Degree** as a Literacy Collaborative Coordinator.
   *** I trained with Irene Fountas and her colleagues at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA*

Ever since I began OOTWL, my motto has always been...

Every student who learns from a resource I've created is MY STUDENT too.

I deeply value the responsibility of supporting teachers as they educate students around the world. It's truly an honor to partner with you, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to help make this your best year yet!

Happy Teaching!

Jen Bengel



Out of this World LITERACY Professional Development Inquiries

@OutofThisWorldLiteracy @OutofThisWorldLiteracy Jenbengel.com @teachwithjenbengel

GOOGLE™ LINKS FOR STUDENTS

Click each link to assign work to students each day!

PHONICS ACTIVITIES

Diphthongs "OU" activities

ANSWER KEYS

LINKS ACTIVE IN PAID VERSION

23 PHONICS ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER READERS

Words with "ou" as in 'ouch'

Rule: Most of the time, when the two vowels **ou are** together, they make the sound /ow/ like in the word *'out.'*

Name: _____ Date: _____

STORY TIME

Create a story by filling in the blanks with words from your word bank. Be sure to spell your words correctly. Read your story out loud and have fun!

outside	about	cloud	mountain	south	round
count	serious	nervous	dangerous	rough	gorgeous

Moses stood _____ in the sunshine. He was thinking _____ the hike ahead. Just then a fluffy _____ floated by in the sky and drifted over the tall rocky _____. Moses looked to the north. He looked to the _____. The trail curve _____, in a circle instead of straight. The rocks under his feet felt bumpy and _____. Moses began to _____ in his head as he took each step. He did not want to trip and fall. He felt a little _____. That is why Moses stayed _____ and focused. He did not joke. "This path could be _____," his friend said, pointing to a steep drop nearby. Moses nodded and kept going, step by step. When t

w. The land stretched far and wide

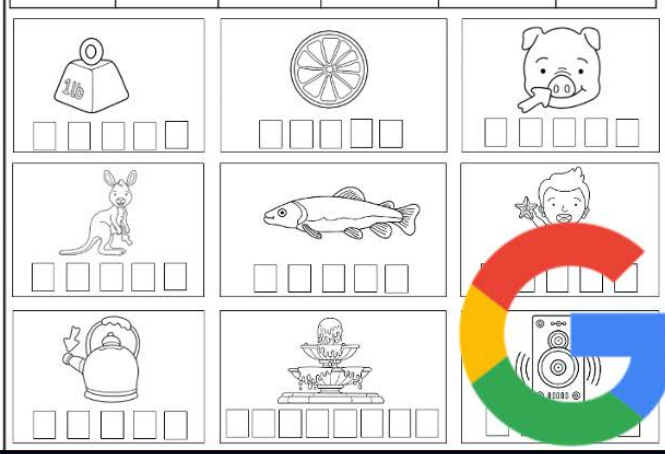
Words with "ou" as in 'ouch'

Rule: Most of the time, when the two vowels **ou are** together, they make the sound /ow/ like in the word *'out.'*

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Match each word to the picture. Copy the word under each picture. Pay attention to how each word is spelled. Think about how each word sounds.

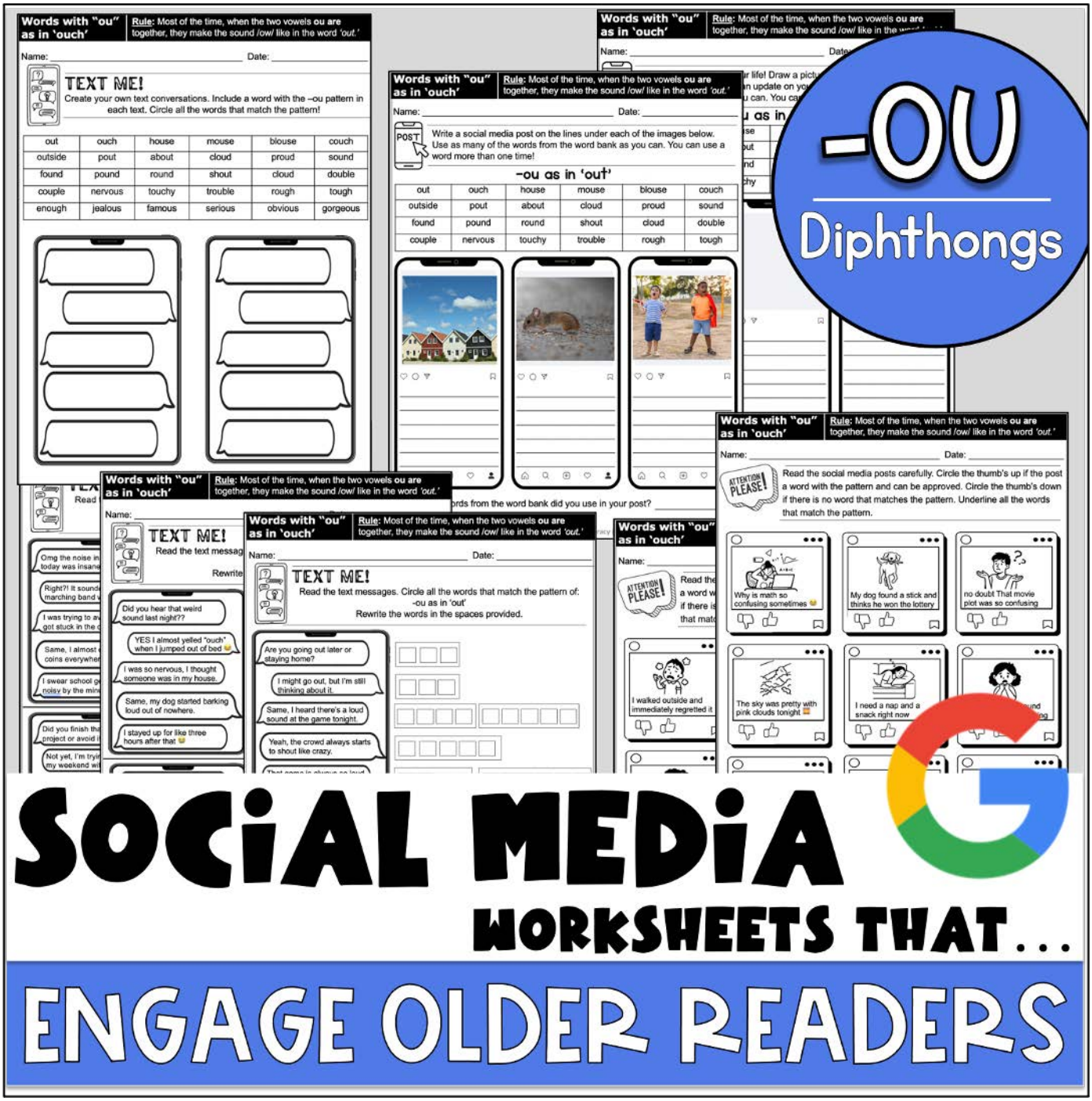
fountain	pouch	pound	proud	round	scout
snout	sound	shout	south	spout	trout



Out of this World LITERACY

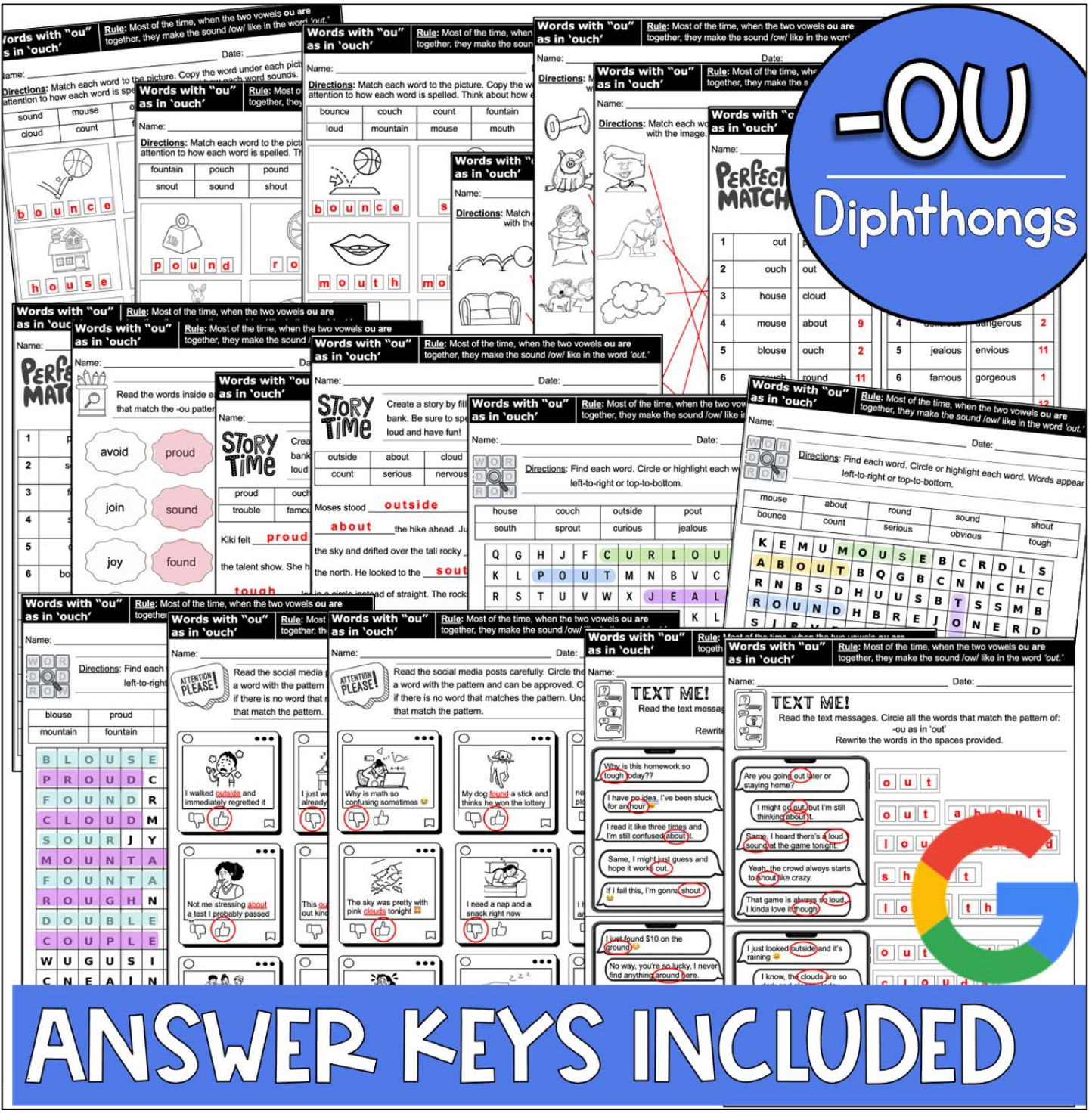
DIPHTHONGS -OU


23
TOTAL WORKSHEETS
Words with "ou" as in 'ouch'
Rule: Most of the time, when the two vowels ou are together, they make the sound /ow/ like in the word 'out.'
Name:
Date:
TEXT ME!
Read the text messages. Circle all the words that match the pattern of: -ou as in 'out'
Rewrite the words in the spaces provided.
Why is this homework so tough today??
Why is math so confusing sometimes
Did you hear that weird sound last night??
YES I almost yelled "ouch" when I jumped out of bed
I was so nervous, I thought someone was in my house.
Same, my dog started barking loud out of nowhere.
Are you going out later or staying home?
I might go out, but I'm still thinking about it.
Same, I heard there's a loud sound at the game tonight.
Yeah, the crowd always starts to shout like crazy.
That game is always so loud. I kinda love it though.
POST
Share an update from your life! Draw a picture or glue an image into each of the 3 spaces then share an update on your life. Use as many of the words from the word bank as you can. You can use a word more than one time!
-ou as in 'out'
out ouch house mouse blouse couch
outside pout about cloud proud sound
found pound round shout cloud double
couple nervous touchy trouble rough tough
PERFECT MATCH
1 proud count
2 sound fountain
avoid
ATTENTION PLEASE!
STORY TIME
Word
out
ouch
house
mouse
blouse
proud
trouble
outside
count
mountain
south
bounce
FOR OLDER READERS
NO BABYISH STUFF HERE!



SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHEETS THAT...

ENGAGE OLDER READERS


-OU
Diphthongs
Words with "ou" as in 'ouch'
Rule: Most of the time, when the two vowels ou are together, they make the sound /ow/ like in the word 'out.'
Name:
Date:
Directions: Match each word to the picture. Copy the word under each picture. Pay attention to how each word is spelled.
sound
mouse
cloud
count
bounce
house
pound
fountain
pouch
snout
shout
bounce
couch
count
fountain
loud
mountain
mouse
mouth
Directions: Match each word with the image.
PERFECT MATCH
1 out
2 ouch
3 house
4 mouse
5 blouse
6 round
about
ouch
cloud
9
2
11
4 dangerous 2
5 jealous envious 11
6 famous gorgeous 1
Read the words inside each cloud that match the -ou pattern.
avoid
proud
join
sound
joy
found
STORY TIME
Create a story by filling in the blank. Be sure to speak loud and have fun!
outside
about
cloud
count
serious
nervous
proud
trouble
Moses stood outside about the hike ahead.
Kiki felt proud
the talent show. She
tough
the sky and drifted over the tall rocky
the north. He looked to the sout
Directions: Find each word. Circle or highlight each word left-to-right or top-to-bottom.
WORD ROW
house
couch
outside
pout
south
sprout
curious
jealous
mouse
about
round
sound
shout
bounce
count
serious
obvious
tough
blouse
proud
mountain
fountain
ATTENTION PLEASE!
Read the social media posts carefully. Circle the a word with the pattern and can be approved. Circle if there is no word that matches the pattern. Underline that match the pattern.
I walked outside and immediately regretted it
Why is math so confusing sometimes
My dog found a stick and thinks he won the lottery
Not me stressing about a test I probably passed
The sky was pretty with pink clouds tonight
I need a nap and a snack right now
TEXT ME!
Read the text messages. Circle all the words that match the pattern of: -ou as in 'out'
Rewrite the words in the spaces provided.
Why is this homework so tough today??
I have no idea. I've been stuck for an hour
I read it like three times and I'm still confused about it.
Same. I might just guess and hope it works out.
If I fail this, I'm gonna shout
Are you going out later or staying home?
I might go out, but I'm still thinking about it.
Same. I heard there's a loud sound at the game tonight.
Yeah, the crowd always starts to shout like crazy.
That game is always so loud. I kinda love it though.
I just found $10 on the ground
No way, you're so lucky. I never find anything around here.
I just looked outside and it's raining
I know, the clouds are so
ANSWER KEYS INCLUDED

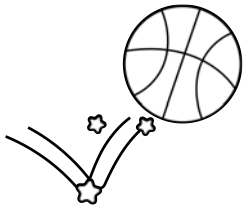
Words with "ou" as in 'ouch'

Rule: Most of the time, when the two vowels **ou are** together, they make the sound /ow/ like in the word *'out.'*

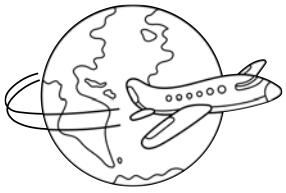
Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Match each word to the picture. Copy the word under each picture. Pay attention to how each word is spelled. Think about how each word sounds.

sound	mouse	ouch	sprout	around	bounce
cloud	count	flour	ground	hour	house



b o u n c e



a r o u n d



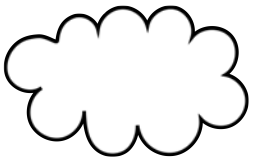
s o u n d



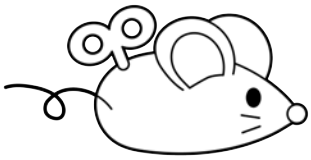
h o u s e



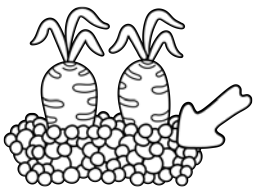
s p r o u t



c l o u d



m o u s e



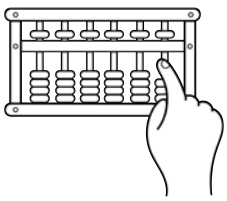
g r o u n d



o u c h



f l o u r



c o u n t



h o u r

The pattern I found in each word is **Every word includes the pattern -ou.**

_____.

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Words with "ou" as in 'ouch'

Rule: Most of the time, when the two vowels **ou are** together, they make the sound /ow/ like in the word *'out.'*

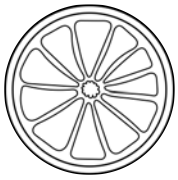
Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Match each word to the picture. Copy the word under each picture. Pay attention to how each word is spelled. Think about how each word sounds.

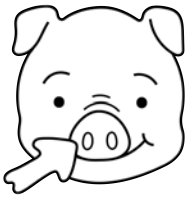
fountain	pouch	pound	proud	round	scout
snout	sound	shout	south	spout	trout



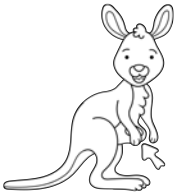
p o u n d



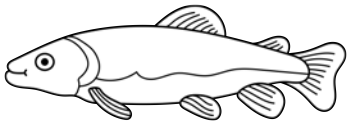
r o u n d



s n o u t



p o u c h



t r o u t



p r o u d



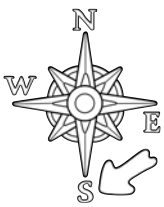
n o i s e



f o u n t a i n



s o u n d



s o u t h



s h o u t



p r o u d

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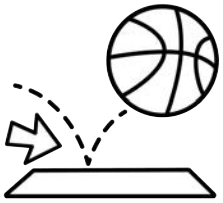
Directions: Match each word to the picture. Copy the word under each picture. Pay attention to how each word is spelled. Think about how each word sounds.

bounce	couch	count	fountain	ground	house
loud	mountain	mouse	mouth	pout	shout



b o u n c e



s h o u t



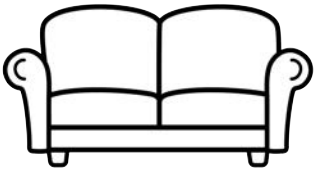
c o u n t



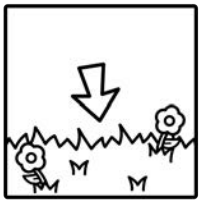
m o u t h



m o u n t a i n



c o u c h



g r o u n d



f o u n t a i n



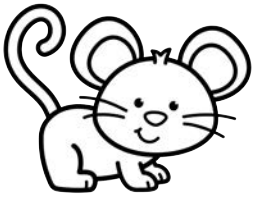
h o u s e



l o u d



p o u t



m o u s e

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Match each word with the image by drawing a line to connect the word with the image.













ouch

found

house

out

mouse

couch

cloud

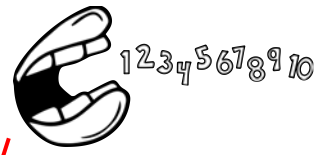
bounce

loud

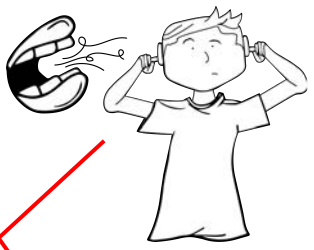
pouch

count

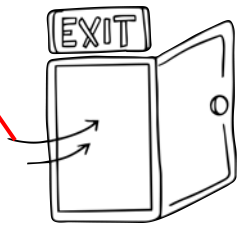
mound













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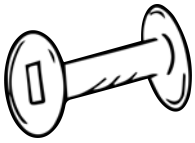
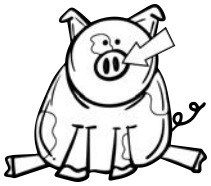
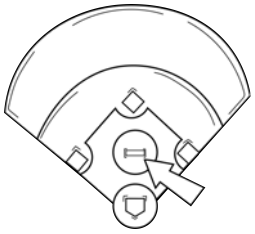
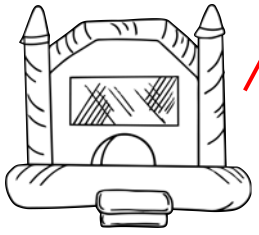












loud

south

proud

sound

pounce

bounce

round

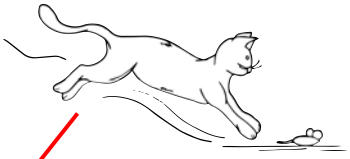
sprout

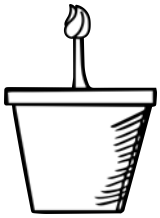
mound

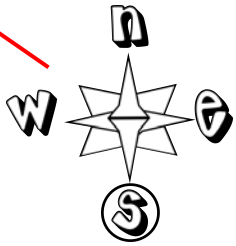
snout

pound

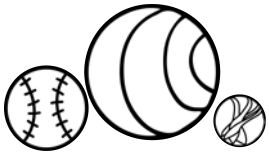
pout













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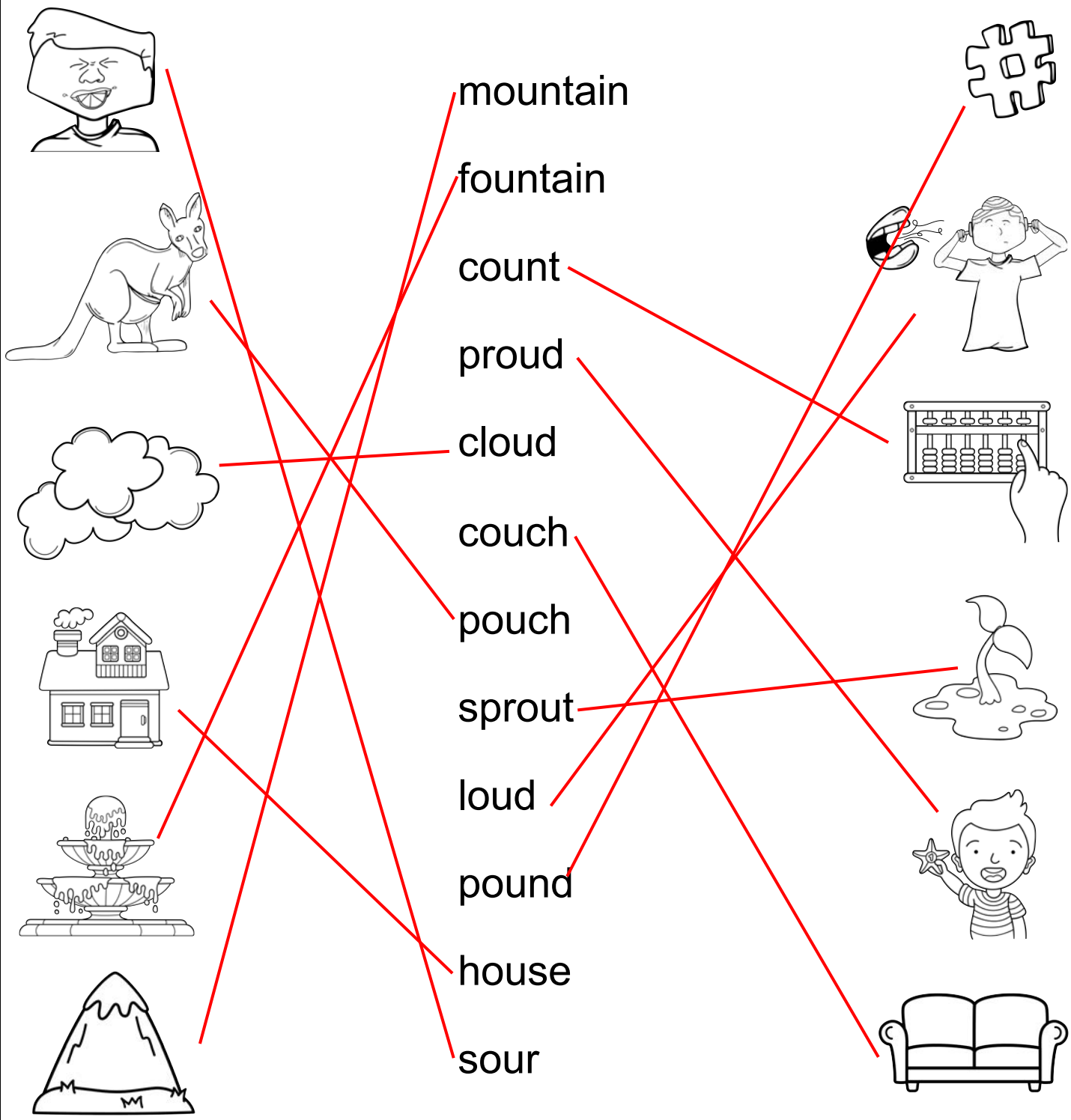
Words with "ou" as in 'ouch'

Rule: Most of the time, when the two vowels **ou are** together, they make the sound /ow/ like in the word *'out.'*

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Match each word with the image by drawing a line to connect the word with the image.



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Words with "ou" as in 'ouch'

Rule: Most of the time, when the two vowels **ou are** together, they make the sound /ow/ like in the word *'out.'*

Name: _____ Date: _____

PERFECT MATCH

Find and match the words together. Read all the words. Match the number for each word. Write the number in the empty space that matches teach word.

			Number
1	out	pound	10
2	ouch	out	1
3	house	cloud	12
4	mouse	about	9
5	blouse	ouch	2
6	couch	round	11
7	outside	house	3
8	pout	blouse	5
9	about	mouse	4
10	pound	pout	8
11	round	outside	7
12	cloud	couch	6

			Number
1	gorgeous	previous	10
2	dangerous	serious	9
3	curious	famous	6
4	delicious	dangerous	2
5	jealous	envious	11
6	famous	gorgeous	1
7	ridiculous	devious	12
8	obvious	curious	3
9	serious	ridiculous	7
10	previous	jealous	5
11	envious	delicious	4
12	devious	obvious	8

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Rule: Most of the time, when the two vowels **ou are** together, they make the sound /ow/ like in the word *'out.'*

Name: _____ Date: _____

PERFECT MATCH

Find and match the words together. Read all the words. Match the number for each word. Write the number in the empty space that matches teach word.

			Number
1	proud	count	7
2	sound	fountain	12
3	found	cloud	5
4	shout	south	8
5	cloud	sour	10
6	bounce	sound	2
7	count	mountain	11
8	south	sprout	9
9	sprout	found	3
10	sour	proud	1
11	mountain	shout	4
12	fountain	bounce	6

			Number
1	double	precious	7
2	couple	enough	12
3	nervous	encourage	10
4	contagious	double	1
5	touchy	tough	9
6	trouble	outgrow	11
7	precious	trouble	6
8	rough	couple	2
9	tough	contagious	4
10	encourage	touchy	5
11	outgrow	rough	8
12	enough	nervous	3

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Words with "ou" as in 'ouch'

Rule: Most of the time, when the two vowels **ou are** together, they make the sound /ow/ like in the word *'out.'*

Name: _____ Date: _____



Read the words inside each shape carefully. Color the shapes with words that match the -ou pattern. Answer the challenge question.

avoid	proud	sprout	enough	rough
join	sound	today	memoir	repay
joy	found	spoil	toilet	taught
point	shout	okay	destroy	today
clown	cloud	enjoy	plain	show
town	bounce	sour	count	south

CHALLENGE

What letter do the colored in shapes spell? C



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Words with "ou" as in 'ouch'

Rule: Most of the time, when the two vowels **ou are** together, they make the sound /ow/ like in the word *'out.'*

Name: _____ Date: _____



Create a story by filling in the blanks with words from your word bank. Be sure to spell your words correctly. Read your story out loud and have fun! *Hint: One of the words is used two times.*

proud	ouch	house	shout	sound	found
trouble	famous	jealous	tough	double	enough

Kiki felt **proud** as she stood outside the school **house** before the talent show. She had practiced **enough**, even though it had been **tough**. Inside, she heard the **sound** of kids getting ready. Suddenly, someone began to **shout**, and another yelled, "**ouch**!" Kiki froze—her music was missing. "I'm in **trouble**," she said. Then she looked around and **found** her friend Leo holding it. "Relax," he said. "You're going to be **famous**! No need to get **jealous**." Kiki rolled her eyes, but she smiled. When it was her turn, the lights felt **double** as bright—but she went on stage anyway. When the crowd began to **shout** and cheer, Kiki knew she had done well.

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outside	about	cloud	mountain	south	round
count	serious	nervous	dangerous	rough	gorgeous

Moses stood **outside** in the sunshine. He was thinking **about** the hike ahead. Just then a fluffy **cloud** floated by in the sky and drifted over the tall rocky **mountain**. Moses looked to the north. He looked to the **south**. The trail curve **round**, in a circle instead of straight. The rocks under his feet felt bumpy and **rough**. Moses began to **count** in his head as he took each step. He did not want to trip and fall. He felt a little **nervous**. That is why Moses stayed **serious** and focused. He did not joke.

"This path could be **dangerous**," his friend said, pointing to a steep drop nearby. Moses nodded and kept going, step by step. When they reached the top, he looked out at the wide view. The land stretched far and wide, and it was **gorgeous**. It was so pretty Moses could not look away. He smiled and felt proud that he didn't give up.

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house	couch	outside	pout	pound
south	sprout	curious	jealous	famous

Q	G	H	J	F	C	U	R	I	O	U	S	X	Z	L
K	L	P	O	U	T	M	N	B	V	C	D	E	F	G
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	J	E	A	L	O	U	S	H
Z	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	N	O	P
P	F	A	M	O	U	S	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
H	O	U	S	E	L	I	J	K	M	N	O	P	Q	R
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
O	U	T	S	I	D	E	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
P	O	U	N	D	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A
Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	O	U	T	H	T	U	V
C	L	O	U	D	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F
S	P	R	O	U	T	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O

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mouse	about	round	sound	shout
bounce	count	serious	obvious	tough

K	E	M	U	M	O	U	S	E	B	C	R	D	L	S
A	B	O	U	T	B	Q	G	B	C	N	N	C	H	C
R	N	B	S	D	H	U	U	S	B	T	S	S	M	B
R	O	U	N	D	H	B	R	E	J	O	N	E	R	D
S	J	R	V	F	D	S	S	U	G	U	L	D	R	W
C	S	B	T	G	P	V	R	N	Y	G	K	O	S	O
S	O	U	N	D	L	J	H	Z	F	H	W	Y	H	C
S	J	Q	P	K	X	O	J	T	C	D	Q	N	F	Y
S	H	O	U	T	K	E	P	N	B	V	C	Y	R	S
Z	K	K	W	L	T	P	S	Z	O	C	C	I	P	W
B	O	U	N	C	E	V	C	B	X	W	J	U	S	V
C	O	U	N	T	O	J	W	M	V	L	A	O	L	F
S	E	R	I	O	U	S	T	D	P	B	G	Y	J	E
X	H	M	M	P	C	F	O	M	R	I	E	N	R	I
O	B	V	I	O	U	S	W	N	L	V	M	H	E	C

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blouse	proud	found	cloud	sour
mountain	fountain	rough	double	couple

B	L	O	U	S	E	H	S	R	E	L	T	P	U	S
P	R	O	U	D	C	T	A	P	I	R	H	G	W	P
F	O	U	N	D	R	R	P	M	U	E	H	U	E	Q
C	L	O	U	D	M	X	A	V	Y	C	F	Y	S	B
S	O	U	R	J	Y	A	I	P	T	X	M	W	Z	N
M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	M	X	Z	S	O	E	L
F	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	D	B	E	P	G	I	V
R	O	U	G	H	N	Y	U	J	N	Q	M	S	L	R
D	O	U	B	L	E	S	N	S	H	K	V	A	I	T
C	O	U	P	L	E	V	W	F	W	K	R	S	S	D
W	U	G	U	S	I	J	D	C	P	U	P	C	L	Z
C	N	E	A	J	N	Y	N	D	B	T	T	Y	B	M
W	S	K	R	I	Q	H	B	J	A	C	D	T	R	B
G	N	J	T	I	E	W	B	K	K	L	E	M	M	O
Q	M	U	T	V	R	D	T	Z	Q	I	N	U	X	W

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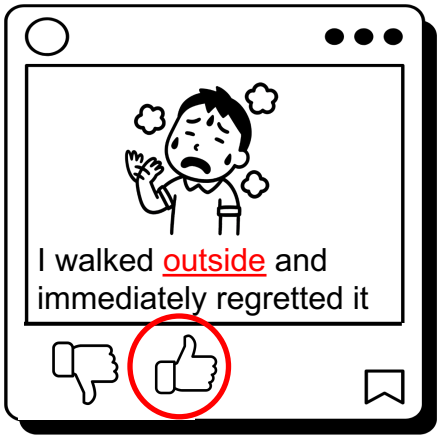
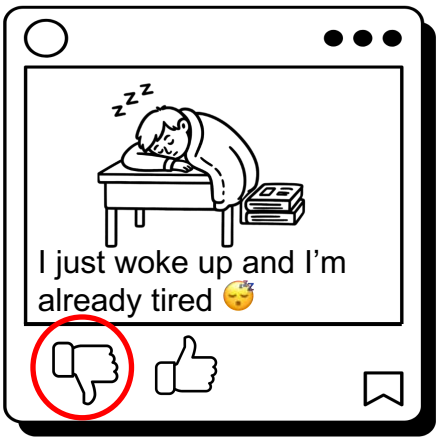
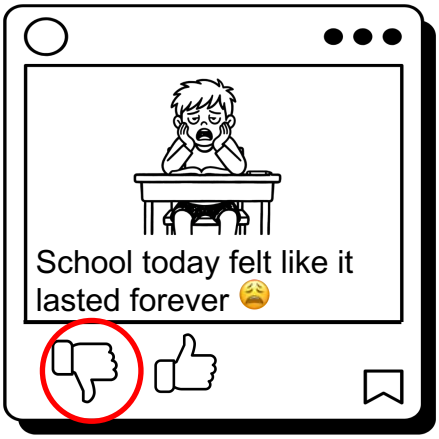
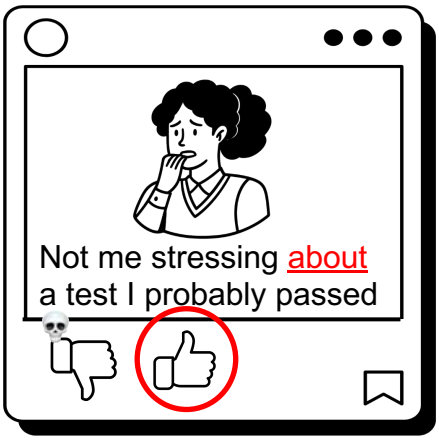
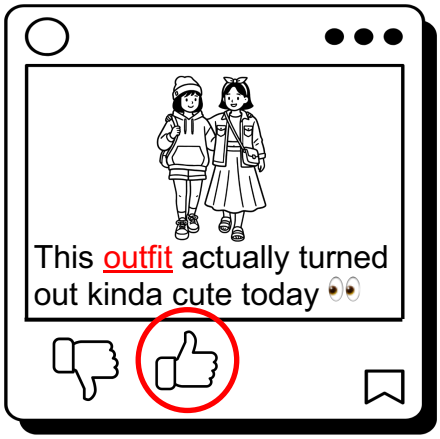
Read the social media posts carefully. Circle the thumb's up if the post a word with the pattern and can be approved. Circle the thumb's down if there is no word that matches the pattern. Underline all the words that match the pattern.

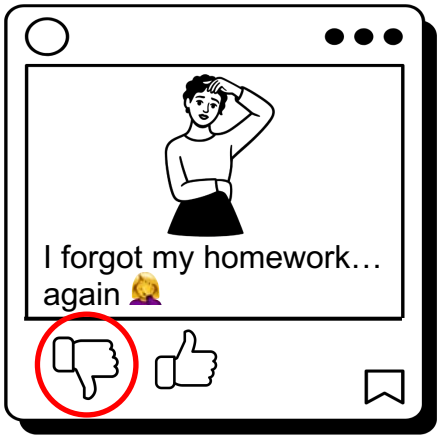


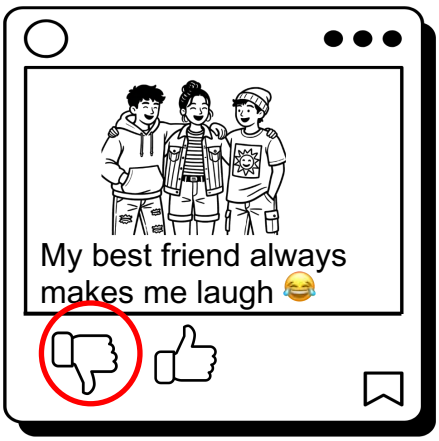




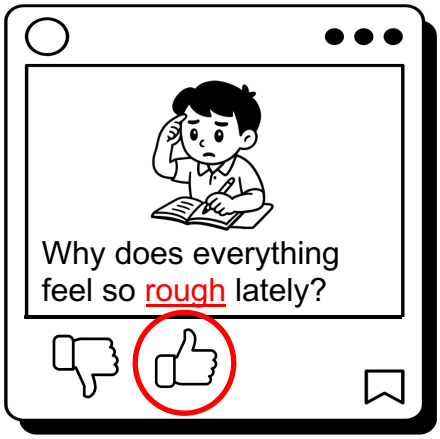












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Why is math so confusing sometimes 😭



My dog found a stick and thinks he won the lottery



no doubt That movie plot was so confusing



The sky was pretty with pink clouds tonight 🌄



I need a nap and a snack right now



I heard a weird sound and now I'm not moving



When your teacher calls on you and you panic 😳



I was gonna go out but my bed said no 🛌



I can't stop listening to this song 🎧

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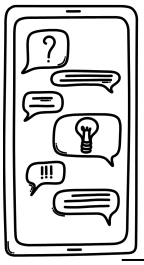

TEXT ME!

Read the text messages. Circle all the words that match the pattern of:
-ou as in 'out'
Rewrite the words in the spaces provided.

Why is this homework so tough today??

I have no idea, I've been stuck for an hour 😩

I read it like three times and I'm still confused about it.

Same, I might just guess and hope it works out.

If I fail this, I'm gonna shout 😭

t o u g h

h o u r

a b o u t

o u t

s h o u t

I just found $10 on the ground 😳

No way, you're so lucky, I never find anything around here.

I looked around to see if anyone dropped it.

That's nice, but if no one claims it, that's your money now.

True… snack run after school, no doubt 😎

g r o u n d

a r o u n d

a r o u n d

y o u r

d o u b t

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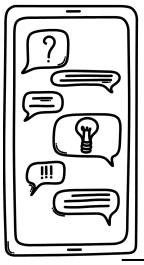

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-ou as in 'out'
Rewrite the words in the spaces provided.

Did you hear that weird sound last night??

YES I almost yelled 'ouch' when I jumped out of bed 😂

I was so nervous, I thought someone was in my house.

Same, my dog started barking loud out of nowhere.

I stayed up for like three hours after that 😭

s	o	u	n	d

o	u	c	h

n	e	r	v	o	u	s

l	o	u	d

h	o	u	r	s

I'm so proud of you for that test score!!

Thanks!! I studied for like three hours straight.

That's serious dedication for sure!

It was tough, but I didn't want to fail again.

All that effort really paid off, you earned it.

p	r	o	u	d

h	o	u	r	s

s	e	r	i	o	u	s

t	o	u	g	h

y	o	u

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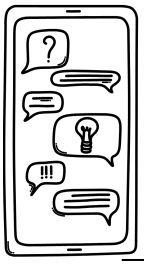

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Rewrite the words in the spaces provided.

Are you going out later or staying home?

I might go out, but I'm still thinking about it.

Same, I heard there's a loud sound at the game tonight.

Yeah, the crowd always starts to shout like crazy.

That game is always so loud, I kinda love it though.

o u t

o u t a b o u t

l o u d s o u n d

s h o u t

l o u d t h o u g h

I just looked outside and it's raining 😩

I know, the clouds are so dark and gloomy today.

I was planning to go around the park too… not anymore.

Same, this weather is kinda rough honestly.

Guess I'll just stay in and scroll for a few hours.

o u t s i d e

c l o u d s

a r o u n d

r o u g h

h o u r s

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