

Vocalic R Picture Check

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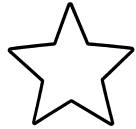
An at-home screening, not a diagnosis. Ask your child to name each picture, listen for the r after the vowel, and tick one box. Do not correct during the check.

ar



car

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



star

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



barn

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w

or



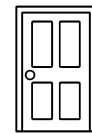
fork

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



corn

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



door

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w

er, ir, ur



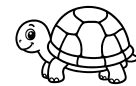
bird

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



shirt

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



turtle

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w

air



chair

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



bear

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



pear

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w

ear



ear

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



deer

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



beard

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w

ire



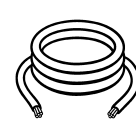
fire

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



tire

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



wire

- ☐ Said the r
☐ No r, or it sounded like w



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Vocalic R Picture Check: What It Tells You

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For the grown-up. This is a screening, not a diagnosis, and there is no score. It does not replace an evaluation by a speech-language pathologist.

Pattern	The pictures	Without the r it can sound like
ar	car, star, barn	“cah” for car
or	fork, corn, door	“fawk” for fork
er, ir, ur	bird, shirt, turtle	“bud” for bird
air	chair, bear, pear	“chay-uh” for chair
ear	ear, deer, beard	“dee-uh” for deer
ire	fire, tire, wire	“fiyah” for fire

What to tell a speech-language pathologist

Name the patterns where you ticked “No r, or it sounded like w”, and say whether it was every picture in the row or only one or two. Say which patterns came out clearly, too. Take this sheet with you.

Read it by age, not by count

R is one of the last sounds children learn to say. In a review of 15 US studies covering almost 19,000 children, 90% said r correctly by 5 years 11 months. So a 4- or 5-year-old who leaves out the r, or says it like a w, is usually still learning it, right on time. In some accents the r after a vowel is not said at all. That is an accent, not a mistake.

Ask a speech-language pathologist if the r is still missing or sounds like w after your child turns 6, if other sounds are hard to understand too, if your child is upset or teased about how they talk, or if you are worried. A parent's worry is reason enough. ASHA ProFind (asha.org/profind) lists certified speech-language pathologists.

Ages for r: Crowe and McLeod (2020), Children's English Consonant Acquisition in the United States, American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology 29(4).



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