

Exercise on the Difference Between Orthography and Phonetics
(or between speech sounds and letters)

- A. In each group of three, circle the word with the oddball *initial* speech sound; e.g., for *people, physics, pistol*, the word with the initial sound that does not match the other two words is *physics*; that is, while all three words start with the letter ‘p’, only *people* and *pistol* start with a ‘p’ sound (*physics*, despite the spelling, starts with an ‘f’ – the same sound that begins the words *feel* and *fit*). ***The idea in all of these is to pay attention to the sounds, not the letters.***

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|-------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. knife | kitten | gnat |
| 2. Thailand | think | trace |
| 3. knapsack | kettle | pneumonia |
| 4. gnat | know | garage |
| 5. pepper | psychology | sister |
| 6. hiccough | Jose | jam |
| 7. fantasy | pharmacy | pill |
| 8. juggle | George | garage |
| 9. chaotic | children | kayak |
| 10. century | crank | silly |

- B. In each group of three, circle the word with the oddball *final* speech sound; e.g., if you listen carefully to the final consonant sounds in the words *pace, jazz, and faces*, you’ll find that both *jazz* and *faces* end with a ‘z’ sound while *pace* ends with an ‘s’. Again, ***the idea is to pay attention to the sounds, not the letters.***

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|-----------|----------|------------|
| 1. dogs | cats | gripes |
| 2. hiccup | calf | Ralph |
| 3. canned | walked | rancid |
| 4. plow | flow | allow |
| 5. merlot | slow | cow |
| 6. fact | mapped | mobbed |
| 7. bough | tow | now |
| 8. jig | thing | rang |
| 9. rough | thorough | lithograph |
| 10. of | stove | graph |

ANSWERS

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