

REVISION OF SPELLING

Tricky Trigraphs

A quick reminder:

When three letters next to each other in a word make **one sound** it is called a **trigraph**.

Once there was an Emperor of China who had a daughter.

Her name was Jasmine. She was very beautiful.

There was only one problem. She was always sad.

Her father tried everything to make her happy.

He gave her gifts of lovely clothes and jewels.

He had clowns and jugglers perform for her.

He built her a gorgeous pavilion, with colours of red and gold, decorated with dragons.



(From *The Flower of Happiness*, Fairy Tales, Ziptales)

Rules for trigraphs:

HINT 1: Some trigraphs are made from vowels only. For example:

beautiful = **eau** makes a long 'u' sound

gorgeous = **eu** makes a short 'u' sound

HINT 2: Some trigraphs are a vowel/consonant combination. For example:

there = **ere** makes an 'air' sound

colours = **our** makes a short 'u' sound

HINT 3: Some trigraphs are made from consonants only. For example:

tch – match, stretch, catch

str – street, stretch,

thr – through, thread, throw

EXERCISE 1

Some of the words from the story *The Flower of Happiness* have lost their trigraphs. Find them in the boxes below.

Vowel Trigraphs	Vowel/Consonant Trigraphs
<i>eau</i>	<i>igh</i>
<i>iou</i>	<i>uar</i>
Consonant Trigraphs	<i>ear</i>
<i>str</i>	<i>our</i>
<i>thr</i>	<i>air</i>

1. The princess liked to go out into the ___ eets of the city.
2. She hoped she m ___ t see something that would make her happy.
3. One day, a young man called Yo Fu was in the ___ eet as the princess passed by. He saw the imperial g ___ d coming.
4. In its centre, on a ___ one of gold, sat the most b ___ tiful maiden he had ever seen. It was love at first s ___ t.
5. Yo Fu's h ___ t was stirred by the s ___ t of the sad princess. He longed to find a way to make her smile.
6. "Aunt, may I ask a fav ___ ?" said Yo Fu.
7. Back to the city went Yo Fu. Day and n ___ t he walked, clutching the box and its prec ___ s contents.
8. "Years ago," said the princess, "a f ___ y said that I would marry a good and hon ___ able man."

EXERCISE 2

Some trigraphs make the same sound. For example:

ear (as in *bear*); **air** (as in *fair*) and **are** (as in *care*)

Finish the words in the sentences using one of these trigraphs.

1. One night, my brother was trying to sc ___ me with ghost stories.

2. I love to eat a big juicy p _ _ _ .
3. Mum bought me a new p _ _ _ of shoes.
4. It's rude to st _ _ _ at other people.
5. I really wanted to w _ _ _ my new dress to the party.
6. A h _ _ _ looks very much like a large rabbit.
7. The wooden ch _ _ _ was uncomfortable to sit on.
8. I washed my h _ _ _ after going for a swim.
9. There was a tiny t _ _ _ in my new backpack.
10. My friends always sh _ _ _ their toys with me.

Challenge

Trigraphs can be beginning, middle or end sounds. Make as many words as you can using the trigraphs in bold type below:

Beginning sounds	Middle sounds	End Sound
<i>br, m, n, s, r, fl, kn, t</i>	igh	<i>t</i>
<i>h, l, m, w, f, st, scr, sk, sw</i>	<i>a, e, i</i>	tch
squ	<i>ea, a</i>	<i>l, are, sh</i>
str	<i>e, ee, ai, a, i</i>	tch, t, ght, aw, p, ng
