

Consonant Sound /f/ spelled “ugh”

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This list was taken from a 7,000 word database built from a children’s dictionary.

1-Syllable

laugh
cough
rough
tough
trough

2-Syllable

tough en
laugh ter
e nough

Other /f/ Spellings

-lf-
calf**
half**

-ft-
soft en**

-ffe-
chau ffeur**
gir affe**

-pph-
sa pphire**

**contains a rare
spelling of a sound

Note: The **ugh** spelling is taught in the OnTrack Reading curriculum for the following reasons

1. If **gh** is taught as the /f/ sound instead, then the **au** in *laugh* must represent the /a/ sound, which would be an unusual spelling of /a/.
2. Similarly, if **gh** is the /f/ in *cough*, then the **ou** must represent the /o/ sound, which would introduce yet another sound for the digraph **ou**.
3. With *rough*, *tough* and *enough*, if **gh** is the /f/ sound, then the **ou** could stand for the /u/ sound, which would be a common sound for the digraph **ou**, but it also works to simply teach children to hear the /o/ sound for the letter **o** in these words when the **ugh** is taught as the /f/ sound.
4. Teaching **ugh** as /f/ at the *end* of a word (or chunk) avoids the confusion of teaching it the digraph **gh** as /g/ in some words such as *ghost* or *ghoul*, and as /f/ in others.