

## Spelling list: ay words - set 1

In the world of phonics, understanding the relationship between letters and their sounds is a crucial step towards becoming a confident reader and speller. As you spend more time practising your spelling, you will start to notice the same letter combinations come up again and again to spell particular sounds.

The combination of the letters *a* and *y* in words creates the distinctive long /a/ sound, which is like the /a/ sound you hear the words *play* , *stay* , and *day* .

There six different ways to spell the long /a/ sound, but luckily the *ay* spelling is most-often used at the end of the word. This means that if you hear a word which ends in a long /a/ sound, the *ay* spelling will be a safe bet in most cases.

day	You can have a <b>day</b> off next week.
hay	Wait for a dry spell to cut the <b>hay</b> .
lay	Male birds do not <b>lay</b> eggs.
may	Please <b>may</b> I have a piece of cake?
pay	I insist it's my turn to <b>pay</b> for the drinks.
ray	A <b>ray</b> of sunshine lit up the wall.
say	They <b>say</b> it's a wonderful place to visit.
way	He looked at me in a very odd <b>way</b> .
clay	They dug up a huge amount of <b>clay</b> .
gray	My hair is beginning to go <b>gray</b> .
pray	Muslims <b>pray</b> in a mosque.
tray	Put the glasses on the <b>tray</b> .
slay	Did St George <b>slay</b> a dragon?
stay	<b>Stay</b> there, do not move.
sway	We watched them <b>sway</b> in time to the music.
spray	<b>Spray</b> the room to freshen the air.

stray

**Stray** cats are often very thin.