

R-Controlled **ar**

When *r* follows a vowel, the *r* is the boss — *ar* says /ar/ as in *car*, *star*, and *park*

GRADE 2 · PHONICS

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 Add the team **ar**. Write the new word on the line.

1. c _____ → _____ 2. st _____ → _____ 3. p _____ k → _____

4. j _____ → _____ 5. _____ m → _____ 6. f _____ m → _____

2 Circle the words that have the **ar** team.

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1. car | 2. cap | 3. park | 4. cat |
| 5. arm | 6. bat | 7. dark | 8. sand |

3 Read each sentence aloud. Circle every **ar** word.

1. A red car is parked at the farm.
2. Mark sees a bright star in the dark sky.
3. Carl hurt his arm at the park.

4 Look at each picture. Write the **ar** word.



5 Word chain. Change one letter each time. Write the new word.

car → _____ → _____ → _____ → _____
start here add **s** at the end change **c** to **b** change **s** to **n** change **b** to **y**

Answer Key — R-Controlled **ar**

For teachers and parents

Activity 1 — Add ar

1. car · 2. star · 3. park · 4. jar · 5. arm · 6. farm

*When the letter r follows a vowel, the r changes (or "controls") the vowel sound. Together **ar** says /ar/ — neither a short /a/ nor a long /ā/, but its own r-controlled sound.*

Activity 2 — Circle the ar words

Should be circled: car, park, arm, dark

Not circled (short /a/): cap, cat, bat, sand

Activity 3 — Circle every ar word in each sentence

1. A red **car** is **parked** at the **farm**.
2. **Mark** sees a bright **star** in the **dark** sky.
3. **Carl** hurt his **arm** at the **park**.

Tip: every sentence has three ar words. Make sure your child catches them all — proper names like Mark and Carl count too.

Activity 4 — Write the ar word for each picture

1. car · 2. jar · 3. arm · 4. farm (or barn)

Activity 5 — Word chain

car → cars → bars → barn → yarn

*Every word in this chain keeps the **ar** team. Tracking one-letter changes builds spelling flexibility and reinforces that **ar** is a stable unit.*

Teaching tip

R-controlled vowels are sometimes called the "Bossy R" because the r bosses the vowel into a new sound. Once **ar** is solid, the same idea applies to **er** (her, fern), **ir** (bird, girl), **or** (for, fork), and **ur** (turn, hurt). Note that **er**, **ir**, and **ur** all make the same /er/ sound — only the spelling differs.