

Consonant Sound /f/ spelled “ugh”

1-syllable	2-syllable	Other /f/ Spellings
cough laugh rough tough trough	laugh ter tough en e nough	-lf- calf* half* -ffe- chau ffeur* gir affe* -pph- sa pphire*

*Indicates an uncommon spelling

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 the digraph *gh* as /g/ in some words such as *ghost* or *ghoul*, and as /f/ in others.