Saxon Phonics 101:

SURVIVAL GUIDE For Parents

SAXON Vowel Coding Rules:

- **VOWEL RULE 1: Short Vowels**: (lesson 2) A vowel followed by a consonant is short. Code it with a breve.
- **VOWEL RULE 2: Long Vowels:**(lesson 3) An open, accented vowel (not followed by a consonant) is long. Code it with a macron and an accent.
- **VOWEL RULE 3:** (lesson 41) A vowel followed by a consonant and a silent e is long; code the vowel with a macron, and cross out the silent e.
- **Vowel Rule 4 (Schwa):**(lesson 84) Open, unaccented vowels usually have the following sounds: a is *schwa*; e, o, and u are *long*; and i is *short*. Any vowel can have the /u/ sound. Coded with an upside down e. (schwa)

Spelling Rules

- **K and C Spelling Rules**:(lesson 23)
  - k before e, i, or y
  - c before a, o, u, and any consonant
- **Final /k/ Spelling Rules**: (lesson 29)
  - ck after a short vowel
  - k after a consonant or a vowel digraph
  - ke after a long vowel
  - c at the end of a word with two or more syllables
- **Floss Rule**: (lesson 52) When a one-syllable root word has a short vowel sound followed by the sound /f/, /l/, /s/, it is usually spelled ff, ll,ss, zz.
- **Final /v/ Spelling Rule**: (lesson 53) When a word has the final sound /v/, it is spelled *ve*.
- **Final /s/ Spelling Rules**: (lesson 78)
  - *ss* after a short vowel
  - *ce* after a long vowel
  - *se* after anything else
- **Adding a Consonant Suffix**: (lesson 88) To spell a word with a *consonant suffix*, just *add* the suffix to the end of the *root word*.
- **Adding a Vowel Suffix-Dropping Rule**: (lesson 88) When a word *ends* with a *silent e*, drop the *e* before *adding* a *vowel suffix*.
- **Adding a Vowel Suffix-Doubling Rule**: (lesson 88) When the *final syllable* of a word is *accented* and *ends* with *one vowel and one consonant*, double the final consonant before adding a vowel suffix.
- **J & G Spelling Rule**: (lesson 109)
  - *j* before a, o, or u

- *g* before e, i, or y
- **Final /ch/ Spelling Rules**: (lesson 116)
  - *tch* after a short vowel
  - *ch* after anything else
- **Final /j/ Spelling Rule**: (lesson 117)
  - *dge* after a short vowel
  - *ge* after anything else

Syllable Division

- How to Divide and Label a Word: (lesson 36) vc/cv
- Syllable Division Rule vccv (lesson 39) vc'/cv; vc/cv'
- Syllable Division Rule vcv (lesson 81) v'/cv; vc'/v; v/cv'
- Syllable Division Rule vc/cvc/cv (lesson 92)
- Syllable Division Rules vcccv (lesson 99) vc/ccv; vcc/cv

Definitions for Coding and Understanding Saxon Phonics:

- Breve- a coding mark used to indicate a vowel's short sound
- Cedilla- a coding mark on the letter c to indicate a soft sound
- Code: to mark a word with symbols to provide information about how to pronounce it
- Combination- two letters that come together to make an unexpected sound(ar, er, ir, or, ur, qu, wh); coded with an arc
- Digraph- two letters that come together to make one new sound (consonant digraphs: ch, ck, ng, ph, sh, th; vowel digraphs: ai, au, aw, ay, ea, ee, ei, ew, ey, ie, oa, oo, ow, ue); underline to code
- Diphthong- two vowel sounds that come together so quickly that they are considered one syllable (oi, ou, ow, oy); code with an arc
- Final, stable syllable: a nonphonetic syllable that occurs in the final position frequently enough to be considered stable (ble, cle, dle, fle, gle, kle, ple, sle, tle, zle, tion); code with a bracket
- Ghost Letter Digraphs: two letters that make one sound; first sound is silent (gn, kn, wr); silent letters are coded with a diagonal slash
- High-frequency words: those words that occur most often in written text
- K-back: a coding mark consisting of a vertical line on the back of a c that makes the /k/ sound
- Macron: a coding mark used to indicate a vowel's long sound; line drawn above a vowel saying its long name
- Prefix: a letter or group of letters added to the beginning of a root word that changes the meaning or usage of the word (dis, pre, un)
- Root word: a word with no prefix or suffix added
- Schwa: a coding mark resembling an upside-down e placed over a vowel to indicate the short u sound

- Sight word: a word of which all or part does not follow phonetic rules
- Sneaky e: the e in the vowel rule v-e; it makes the vowel have a long sound (a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e); coded by drawing a diagonal slash through the silent e and a macron drawn above the long vowel
- Suffix: a letter or group of letters added to the end of a root word that changes the meaning or usage of the word (vowel suffix:ed, er, es, est, ing, y; consonant suffix:ful, less, ly, ness, s); suffixes are coded by boxing in the affix added to the root word
- Syllable: a word or part of a word that contains only one vowel sound and is made by one impulse of the voice; syllables are split with a vertical line
- Trigraph: three letters that come together to make one sound (dge, igh, tch); underline trigraphs to code
- Twin consonants: two identical consonants making only one sound; coded with a diagonal slash for silent letters
- Voice line: a coding mark consisting of a horizontal line through the middle of a letter or letters, representing a voiced sound (s, th)
- "Wild Colt" Words: words that only have one vowel and break the rule by sounding like a long vowel

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Other Rules or Codes:

- ai is often followed by n, l, or d
- oa is often found in one-syllable words
- v and x are never doubled
- x is never followed by an s
- no words in English end in v
- igh, ough, and augh are usually followed by a t

add es to nouns ending in s, x, z, ch, tch, and sh to make them plural