

Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: au

"This story focuses on the 'au' sound as in 'launch.' Watch for words like 'launch,' 'astronaut,' and 'cause' as you read!"



How Rockets Launch Into Space

Rockets are built to launch high above Earth and travel into space.

Before a rocket can launch, scientists check every part. They fill it with fuel and make sure all systems are ready.

When it's time to go, the rocket engines fire with a loud roar. The ground shakes as the rocket rises into the sky.

The astronauts on board feel proud to be part of such a big adventure. Their mission is to explore space and learn new things for everyone back home!

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

launch

cause

haul

fault

applause



Name: _____

How Rockets Launch Into Space

1. What happens right before a rocket launches?

- A. It is painted bright colors
- B. Scientists check every part and fill it with fuel
- C. It is pushed by a big machine
- D. It waits until night to fly

2. How do astronauts feel when the rocket lifts off?

- A. Proud to be part of the adventure
- B. Scared and quiet
- C. Ready to come back down
- D. Sleepy and bored

3. Fill in the blank:

The astronauts on board feel _____ to be part of the adventure.

4. Why is it important for scientists to check every part of the rocket before it launches?

5. If you could travel into space, what would you like to explore?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Long Vowel Team 'au' (as in "launch")

Genre: Nonfiction – Space & Science

High-Frequency Words: the, they, to, and, it

Before Reading

1. Remind them of the target skill: "We're looking for 'au' words that say the /aw/ sound, like in 'launch.'"
 2. Have you ever seen a rocket launch on TV or in person?
 3. What do you think would be exciting about exploring space?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Remind kids that 'au' makes the /aw/ sound. Try that sound first when seeing this pattern.
 2. Watch for 'au' words and stretch them out carefully.
 3. What does the rocket do when it lifts off?
 4. Try reading the last sentence like you're an excited astronaut!
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After Reading

1. Can you retell what happens when a rocket launches into space?
 2. Why do astronauts feel proud during a mission?
 3. Would you want to be an astronaut? Why or why not?
 4. Skill mastery prompt: "Find and underline 5 'au' words in the story!"
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Try reading the story again like you're announcing a rocket launch!
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Activity Idea

Draw a rocket launching into space and add at least three labels using 'au' words. Write a sentence about what the astronauts might see from space.

Coaching Tip

Celebrate big reading moments like a rocket launch—loud cheers and applause make it fun!

