

## Spelling list: ai words - set 1

In English spelling, the letter combination *ai* often represents the long /a/ sound. This is a common spelling pattern found in words such as *rain* , *train* , or *paint* . It is different from the short /a/ sound found in words like *cat* or *hat* .

Words that might look similar sound totally different depending on whether they have a short /a/ sound or a long /a/ sound, for example *am* and *aim* or *clam* and *claim* .

As there are six different ways of spelling the long /a/ sound, it is important to learn to identify and remember words that use the *ai* spelling. Have a go at the spelling activities and games – you'll be confident in no time!

aid                      The vet came to the dog's **aid** just in time.

aim                      Tom's **aim** is to score 10 goals this season.

paid                     He **paid** the fare for the train journey.

fail                      You never **fail** to amaze me!

mail                     The postman delivered the **mail** .

sail                      What time does the ferry set **sail** ?

tail                      Dad tripped over the dog's **tail** .

snail                    The **snail** left a trail on the path.

claim                    Call this number to **claim** your prize.

main                    We don't want to live near the **main** road.

pain                     I have a slight **pain** in my neck.

chain                    There was a broken link in the **chain** .

plain                    The chocolate cake is nicer than the **plain** cake.

stain                    His blood made a dark red **stain** on the carpet.

strain                   I have been under a lot of **strain** .

wait                    How much longer do we have to **wait** ?

gait                    The sports therapist studied my **gait** .

paint                   I like to use different colours when I **paint** .

faint                   His voice was very **faint** .

waist                   My skirt is tight around my **waist** .