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### Icons



Important! Be Careful!



A good idea, but optional



Poison! Don't do this!



**Model**



**Monitor**



### Activity Guide: Phonics Rain

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# Activity Guide


## Phonics Rain

### Introduction

**Phonics Rain** is similar to **Phonics Reading Challenge**, but is a much higher energy activity. Also, unlike **Reading Challenge**, you can allot a fixed time for it – you do not need to test every student in the class.

Like **Reading Challenge**, scoring for **Phonics Rain** is graded according to the ability of the student, which encourages more advanced students to coach less advanced team-mates, rather than take all the turns for themselves. However, in **Phonics Rain**, the coaching aspect is much less formalised than in **Reading Challenge**. Students pick cards up from around the room, then, if they need help, they can seek out a more advanced team-mate before approaching the teacher.

**Phonics Rain** does take quite a bit of preparation initially, but you will find that it is worth the effort. Don't be afraid that your classroom seems messy in the early part of the activity; it is designed so that by the end, all of the materials are back in order.

Before Class	Prepare Yourself	
1	2	3
<p>Decide which <b>target words</b> you will use in this lesson.</p> <p>The Activity Resource for each unit contains 3 or 4 levels of <b>target words</b>, ranging from “Easy” to “Very Difficult”.</p> <p>Generally, you will use all <b>target words</b> for <b>Phonics Rain</b>, but you might decide to remove the “Very Difficult” words if you feel <b>none</b> of your students are ready for them, or the “Easy” words if <b>all</b> of your students are past that level.</p>	<p> Practice reading each of the <b>target words</b> that you will use in this lesson.</p> <p>Make sure you can pronounce each word clearly yourself, especially if it contains, non-Thai <b>phonemes</b>, <b>voiced</b> finals and/or <b>consonant clusters</b>.</p>	<p>Now, think about what to listen for in each word when assessing your students’ reading and pronunciation.</p> <p>Think about likely problems such as <b>voiced</b> finals and <b>consonant clusters</b>.</p>
<u><i>My notes</i></u>		



# Activity Guide Phonics Rain

## Before Class

## Prepare Yourself

4

Divide teams into 3-4 levels according to ability.

For example:

Team Members	Level
#1 - #2	1
#3 - #4	2
#5 - #10	3
#11 - #12	4

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### Scoring:

Scoring for **Phonics Rain** follows a similar formula to **Reading Challenge**, points are awarded according to the difficulty of the **target word**:

- Easy = 1
- Medium = 2
- Difficult = 3
- Very Difficult = 4

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### Scoring:

To get the final score, multiply the level of the student by the difficulty of the word.

This may seem over-complicated, but it serves two important purposes:

- Motivation for team leaders to mentor their lower level team-mates
- Motivation for all students to challenge themselves at an appropriate level.

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### Scoring:

Scoring is more straightforward in **Phonics Rain** than in **Reading Challenge** - the reading is either acceptable or not.

You do not need to calculate separately for individual **phonemes** and **blending**.

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### Scoring:




What you do need to think about is what you will accept. You should be quite strict, especially with **voiced** final consonants, and **consonant clusters**.

*My notes*



# Activity Guide

## Phonics Rain

Before Class	Prepare your Materials	
<p>①</p> <p>Prepare the <b>target word activity cards</b> for this unit.</p> <p> The Activity Resources contain 5 sets of cards for each <b>Phonics Unit</b> – 1 set for each team and 1 “Teacher’s Set”. For <b>Phonics Rain</b>, you need the <b>team sets</b> – 3 or 4 sets depending on how many teams there are.</p> <p>Put all the cards in a large container, and shake the container to mix them up.</p> <p>See the <b>Materials Preparation</b> Activity Guide for preparing <b>activity cards</b>.</p>	<p>②</p> <p>Prepare containers to sort the cards. You will need 4-5 containers – one container for each level that you decided on in <b>Prepare Yourself Step ④</b>, plus one “reject” container for the words that students cannot read.</p> <p> The number of containers depends on the number of levels of <b>students</b>, not the levels of difficulty of the <b>target words</b>.</p> <p>See the <b>Materials Preparation</b> Activity Guide for preparing the containers.</p>	<p>③</p> <p>Check the materials you will need for <b>Phonics Rain</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Target Word activity cards</b> in a large container</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small containers for sorting the cards</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A table that is large enough to put all your containers on.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  <b>Optionally:</b> Make “Entry” and “Exit” signs to keep your students in order.</li> </ul>
<p>④</p> <p>Check the rest of your equipment for this lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uniforms</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scoreboard Headers</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Score-sheets</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Flashcards</b> etc. (depending on other activities for this lesson)</li> </ul> <p>Put everything together in your <b>Team English</b> Basket.</p>	<p><u><i>My notes</i></u></p>	



# Activity Guide

## Phonics Rain

**In Class****Prepare your Students**

①

**Set the scene:** tell the students that you are going to play a fun game to practise their reading.

②

Copy the level table you prepared onto the board.

Tell students about the levels you have decided for scoring, and that if the lowest level students score well, they could add a lot of points to their teams' totals!

③

Remind the stronger students that they will get more points for their teams by coaching their weaker team-mates than by coming up and reading the words themselves.

④



**Optionally:** Use **Phonics Drilling** to:





- revise **graphemes/phonemes** from previous lessons
- introduce new **graphemes/phonemes** for this lesson
- **blend phonemes** together into syllables

*My notes*











# Activity Guide

## Phonics Rain

In Class	Setup the Activity	
<p>1</p> <p>Arrange your containers on a table, so that you can easily reach each container.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Clear the rest of the classroom to make a big open space. Move the desks and chairs to the sides of the room. If your classroom is small, stack the desks, to make as much space as possible.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Arrange some chairs in front of your table to make a corridor.  <b>Optionally:</b> you may mark your corridor with “Entry” and “Exit” signs.</p>
<p>4</p> <p> <b>Model:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Select 3 students of different levels <b>from one team</b>.</li> <li>2. Get the rest of the class to stand around the table in a large semi-circle, so that everyone can see.</li> </ol>	<p>5</p> <p> <b>Model:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Show the large container with all the <b>target word activity cards</b> to the class.</li> <li>4. Point out the Team Colour on the back of each card.</li> <li>5. Stress to students that you will follow the <b>colour of the card</b> when awarding points.</li> </ol>	<p>6</p> <p> <b>Model:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Get each student to pick a card <b>of their own team colour</b> from the large container.</li> </ol>
<p><u><i>My notes</i></u></p>		



# Activity Guide Phonics Rain

In Class	Setup the Activity	
<p>7</p> <p> <b>Model:</b></p> <p>7. Before starting testing, remind the other students that they can coach each other while they are waiting to be tested.</p>	<p>8</p> <p> <b>Model:</b></p> <p>8. Test the best student of your sample group to see if they can read the card.</p> <p> The student should be able to read each <b>grapheme</b>, as well as the whole word.</p>	<p>9</p> <p> <b>Model:</b></p> <p>9. If the student can read to your satisfaction, put the card in the Level 1 container. If not, put the card in the “reject” container.</p> <p> Don't be too tough on this student, just because they are high level. Remember that they receive less points for correct reading than lower level students. You should use the same criteria for all students to decide whether or not they pass.</p>
<p>10</p> <p> <b>Model:</b></p> <p>10. Take the next student and repeat.</p> <p>11. If they can read each <b>grapheme</b>, plus the whole word, put the card in the “level 2” container.</p>	<p>11</p> <p> <b>Model:</b></p> <p>12. Keep reminding the other students to coach each other while you are testing, particularly the lowest level students as they can get the most points.</p>	<p>12</p> <p></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Points will count towards the team colour on the back of the cards, regardless of who reads it!</li> <li>➤ If the teacher sees a student hiding cards of another team, they lose 20 points for their own team.</li> </ul> <p>Explain the Rules to the students in Thai.</p>
<p><u>My notes</u></p>		



# Activity Guide

## Phonics Rain

In Class	Run the Activity	
<p>①</p> <p>Take the large container of <b>activity cards</b> to the centre of the room.</p> <p>Get the students to stand around you in one big circle.</p> <p>Call out: “Are you ready?”</p>	<p>②</p> <p>Throw the cards up in the air.</p>	<p>③</p> <p>Quickly move to your testing station.</p> <p>Remind the students of the rules as they gather the cards.</p>
<p>④</p> <p>As the first students arrive for testing, make sure that they line up in single file in your “corridor” of chairs.</p> <p>If a student tries to jump the cue, firmly send them to the back.</p>	<p>⑤</p> <p>Continue testing as you did during the <b>modelling</b>.</p>	<p>⑥</p> <p>Keep reminding the higher level students that they can make more points for their teams by coaching than by reading themselves.</p>
<p>⑦</p> <p>About 15-20 minutes before the end of the class, close off the end of your corridor.</p> <p>Tell those students not in line to start cleaning the room.</p>	<p>⑧</p> <p>Quickly finish testing the remaining students in line.</p> <p>Get the students to put away their <b>Team English</b> equipment, and sit quietly in their teams.</p>	<p><u>My notes</u></p>





# Activity Guide


## Phonics Rain

In Class	Feedback	
<p>①</p> <p>Draw a table on the board to calculate the scores.</p>	<p>②</p> <p>Get the four team captains to help separate the cards for each level into the team colours.</p>	<p>③</p> <p>For each level, count the cards for each team, calling the numbers out loud.</p> <p>Let the captains write the totals into the table.</p>
<p>④</p> <p>Calculate the scores.</p> <p>Congratulate the winning team, of this activity, and <b>all teams</b> for their work today.</p>	<p>⑤</p> <p>When giving feedback for <b>teamwork points</b>, pay special attention to the success of lower level students.</p> <p>Compliment the team leaders of those students for their good coaching!</p>	<p>⑥</p> <p>Add the rest of the points for today's lesson (for setting up, <b>teamwork points</b>, other activities etc.) together to find the winning team for today.</p> <p>Congratulate the winners and all teams.</p>
<p>⑦</p> <p>Add the previous points to today's points, to find which team is currently winning the competition.</p>	<p>⑧</p> <p>Take note of any teams that have passed benchmarks.</p> <p>Tell them they will receive their reward in the next lesson.</p>	<p><u>My notes</u></p>



# Activity Guide

## Phonics Rain

After Class	Evaluation	
<p>1</p>  <p>Sit down and write a few notes about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– What was good?</li> <li>– What problems you had?</li> <li>– What you should change next time?</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <p>Think about the reading ability of students in each level.</p> <p>Should you change the level break-down next time you run an activity like this?</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Think about common problems that you noticed.</p> <p>How will you address these problems? What activities could you try to solve them?</p>
<p><u><i>My notes</i></u></p>		