

Spelfabet Level 2

Moveable Alphabet sequences.

Objective:



The learner will correctly discriminate the difference between four, five or six-sound words which only differ by one sound (minimal pairs) and change the relevant grapheme (spelling) to correctly spell the new word. Occasionally, only the order of letters will need to be changed e.g. making "stop" into "tops".

This activity helps develop learners' phonemic awareness (segmenting, phoneme manipulation) as well as their orthographic knowledge (phoneme-grapheme correspondences, which graphemes occur in which locations in words, which graphemes go together).

What to do:

Print, laminate and cut up your Spelfabet Moveable Alphabet. You just need the one-letter orange pieces (vowels) for this Level 2 activity, so can save cutting up the rest for later.

Throughout this activity, say sounds (phonemes) not letter names. Make sure you're not using your voice when saying voiceless consonants (p, t, k, th as in thin, f, s, sh, ch, h).

Arrange the spellings listed above the first table in an arc in colour groupings on the table, with green on your learner's left, yellow and orange in front of them, and red on your learner's right.

Make the first word in the table with the relevant letters and read it slowly, stretching it out and running your finger along it so you're pointing to each spelling as you say the relevant sound. Put the word in a phrase or sentence to illustrate its meaning(s), using the example sentence if you can't think of a better one. Then ask your learner to change the word into the next word e.g. "this is flat, please change it into flag".

If your learner is struggling to find the correct piece, give a colour clue to help narrow down the search e.g. "Use a red one", or move a small number of spellings including the correct one closer to the word to be changed, and say "it's one of these".

The spellings' colours are based on a traffic light:

- Green is generally for word beginnings (go)
- Orange is generally for word middles (vowels)
- Red is generally for word endings (stop)

Yellow letters can be used at word beginnings or endings.

For most of this level we use familiar spellings, but build longer words than in Level 2.
Spellings needed:

- All the one-letter spellings except x and y.
- ch, th, sh, ve.

fifth	She came fifth in the race.
filth	Please wash that filth off your hands, they're filthy.
finch	A finch is a small bird.
pinch	I had to pinch myself because I couldn't believe what I saw.
punch	Do you punch the air when you win? (demonstrate)
hunch	I had a hunch something fishy was going on.
lunch	What's for lunch?
bunch	A bunch of flowers.
bench	Put the shopping on the bench.
belch	A belch is a loud burp.
welch	Don't you dare welch on our deal.
welsh	People from Wales are Welsh.
welt	The jellyfish sting left a welt on my arm.
weld	I have to weld those wires together.
wend	We can just wend our way home, no need to hurry.
wind	The wind blew my hat off.
wink	Don't wink at me.
dink	I'll give you a dink on my bike.
disk	A computer disk.
desk	I sat at my desk.
dusk	The sun sets at dusk.
tusk	An elephant's tusk.
busk	Musicians busk in the mall.
rusk	The baby chewed a teething rusk.
rust	Iron will rust if it gets wet.
rest	I need a rest.
rent	Pay the rent.
runt	A very tiny puppy or piglet is called a runt.
rant	Please don't rant at me.
chant	The monks started to chant.
pant	Dogs pant when they are hot.
punt	They went for a punt on the lake.
punk	Do you like punk rock music?
pink	The colour pink.
mink	A mink is an animal like a ferret
mint	I had an after dinner mint.
mist	There was mist in the air and dew on the grass.
must	I must remember your birthday
dust	It was covered in dust.

bust	There was a bust of the Queen in the gallery.
best	My team is the best.
bent	My handlebars were bent.
belt	My belt holds up my trousers.
melt	The snow will melt.
pelt	I will pelt you with snowballs.
pest	Please don't be a pest.
west	They travelled west.
went	They went out.
sent	I sent you a postcard.
send	I'll send you a present later.
bend	A river bend.
band	A rubber band.
hand	Can you give me a hand?
sand	I built a sand castle.
sank	The boat sank.
bank	She works in a bank.
bunk	Have you slept in a bunk bed?
junk	I threw out all my junk.
hunk	I had a big hunk of bread with my soup.
hulk	The incredible Hulk.
bulk	We buy in bulk because it's cheaper.
sulk	Please don't sulk.
sunk	The boat has sunk.
sink	Why did it sink?
link	Let's link arms.
lint	There's a lint filter in the washing machine.
lent	The librarian lent me the books.
lend	I'll lend you my ruler.
land	When will the plane land?
lank	My hair is lank and dull, I need to wash it.
tank	A water tank.
yank	Babies like to yank people's hair.
rank	A taxi rank.
rink	A skating rink.
think	What do you think?
thank	I can't thank you enough.
shank	Lamb shank soup.
shonk	Don't buy from him, he's a bit of a shonk.
chonk	Don't chonk your spoon on your teeth.
chink	A chink of light came through the crack in the wall.
chin	He scratched his chin.
chip	A potato chip.
chimp	Short for chimpanzee.
wimp	She's a bit of a wimp.
limp	He hurt his leg so now he walks with a limp.

lamp	turn on the lamp.
lump	A lump of sugar.
dump	Don't dump your rubbish here.
chump	Don't be a chump, use your brain.
jump	Jump up and down.
pump	I'll pump up my flat tyre.
pulp	She squeezed the orange and put the pulp in the compost.
gulp	She took a big gulp of water.
gulf	The Gulf of Carpentaria.
golf	Nan plays golf on Wednesdays.
gold	That ring is made of gold.
sold	I sold my old car.
solve	Can you solve this problem?
salve	You need to put some salve and a bandage on that cut.
valve	A tyre valve.

Rearranging letters:

cost	How much does it cost?
cots	The babies slept in their cots.
lots	We had lots of fun.
lost	I've lost my keys.
lets	Let's go this way.
lest	Lest we forget.
jets	Jets are very fast planes.
jest	I only meant it in jest, I wasn't serious.
vest	A vest has no sleeves.
vets	The vets work at the animal hospital.
pets	The vets look after our pets.
pest	Are you a pest?
west	Go west young woman!
wets	The rain wets my hair.
nets	Fishing nets.
nest	Birds nest.
fest	Short for festival.
fist	Close your hand into a fist.
fits	If the glove fits, wear it.
bits	Bits and pieces.
bets	She bets she can win.
best	She can win because she is the best.
bust	Victory or bust.
butts	No ifs and no buts.
juts	The rock juts out into the sea.
just	Just give me a minute.
gust	A gust of wind.

guts	My guts hurt.
ruts	The gravel road was full of ruts.
rust	My car has started to rust.
lust	You'll just have to lust after that gadget till you save enough to buy one.
list	A shopping list.
lisp	The little boy spoke with a lisp.
lips	I put lipstick on my lips.
laps	I swam 20 laps of the pool.
caps	Baseball caps.
cups	Cups of tea.
cusp	I'm on the cusp of making a great discovery.

next	What will you do next?
text	I just sent you a text.
Tex	I have a friend called Tex.
tax	I paid my tax on time.
fax	They had a fax machine.
sax	She is a sax player in a jazz band.
six	One, two, three, four, five, six.
mix	Mix the ingredients and bake for half an hour.
fix	Can you fix broken things?
fox	A fox got into our chicken coop.
box	I put my groceries in a box
lox	Lox is a kind of salmon meat.
ox	An ox is also known as a bullock.

task	I have an important task to do.
ask	Ask me what I think.
bask	Snakes and lizards like to bask in the sun.
cask	They used cask wine for cooking.
mask	His Spiderman costume included a mask.
mast	The pirate climbed up the ship's mast.
past	History is about things that happened in the past.
cast	She cast her line into the river.
vast	The universe is vast.
fast	Everyone else ran very fast.
last	I came last in the race.
blast	There was a loud blast

- Spellings to add: ck, tch, ff, ll, ss, zz, ng

chicks	Chicks are baby birds.
checks	She checks she has everything she needs.
necks	Giraffes have long necks.

neck	I have a much shorter neck.
nick	Don't nick my things!
snick	In cricket if you snick the ball you're likely to be caught out.
snack	They had an afternoon snack.
slack	Don't slack off!
slick	Sometimes I slick my hair back.
slid	A note slid under the door.
skid	(perhaps remove letter c for this word) Kids like to skid on polished floors.
skin	Our skin is our body's largest organ.
spin	Can you spin around on roller skates?
spun	The spinning top spun round and played a tune.
stun	They stun the world with their discovery.
stuck	She stuck the picture up on the wall.
stock	I added stock to my soup.
smock	Do you wear a smock in art?
smog	Air pollution is also called smog.
slog	Building the garden was hard slog, but worth it.
snog	A snog is a kiss.
snot	Oh yuck, snot, use a tissue!
slot	Put coins in the vending machine slot.
slosh	We slosh water around to clean up.
slash	They had to slash the long grass.
smash	Don't smash my crockery.
stash	Where did you stash the loot?
stag	A stag is a large male deer.
snag	Don't snag your clothes on that cactus.
swag	I slept in a camping swag.
swig	She had a swig of her drink.
swim	Can you swim?
switch	The light switch is by the door.
snitch	In Harry Potter, they play Quidditch and chase the Golden Snitch.
snatch	Don't snatch toys from other children.
snap	We got it done in a snap.
snip	Snip off unwanted fabric with scissors.
skip	I like to skip along instead of walking, it's more cheerful.
slip	Slip on a shirt.
slap	Slap on sunscreen.
slop	And don't slop your drink everywhere. (ha ha)
clop	The horse went clippety-clop.
crop	We planted a crop of tomatoes
crock	I'm getting to be a bit of an old crock.
clock	The Town Hall had a huge clock.
click	Can you click your fingers?
flick	I'll flick this fluff off the table.
flock	A flock of seagulls arrived when we opened our chips.
frock	She wore her best frock.

frog	A frog can live in water or on land.
grog	Grog is slang for alcohol.
grot	Wash your hands and don't be a grot.
grit	They succeeded because of grit and determination.
grin	She had a grin on her face.
gran	Gran is short for grandma.
fran	Fran is short for Frances or Francesca.
flan	They had a nice fruit flan for dessert.
flag	The Australian flag has the Southern Cross on it.
flat	My friend lives in a fifth-floor flat.
flit	Tiny birds flit around.
fling	I catch the spider and fling it outside.
flung	The flung spider feels pretty surprised.
clung	They clung onto the life raft.
cling	Cling wrap is used to stop food from drying out.
clang	"Clang, clang" went the old tram as it rattled past.
clash	Try not to clash with other people.
crash	Try not to crash into them, too.
crush	Crush the cans before putting them in the recycling.
brush	Brush your hair.
brash	Some people like to be loud and brash.
brag	Do you like to brag about how good you are?
crag	A crag is a rocky outcrop, usually sticking up from a mountain.
clag	Clag is glue made out of cornflour and water.
clad	The knight was clad in shining armour from head to toe.
glad	I'm glad to see you.
grad	The new grad was very proud of her university degree. A grad is a graduate.
grid	The electrical grid failed and the power went off.
grill	They like to grill their fish, not fry it.
drill	Drill a hole in the wall to put up a picture hook.
frill	The lizard has a frill around its neck, so it's called a frilled-neck lizard.
thrill	What a thrill it was to go on the roller-coaster.
thrip	The thrip is a small garden insect.
drip	The tap started to drip.
drop	Drop everything and evacuate the building!
prop	Prop yourself up with some pillows.
plop	The frog landed in the pond with a plop.
plod	My bike broke so I had to plod all the way home.
clod	Each clod of earth contains many worms.
clog	Sometimes drains clog up.
clot	After you cut yourself your blood forms a clot.
blot	I accidentally got a big ink blot on my work.
blog	She writes a blog.
block	Don't block my view.
black	Black is a shade not a colour.

- Spelling to add: ed

notched	My team notched up a win this weekend.
botched	Her operation was botched and she'll need more surgery.
bossed	They bossed people around.
bussed	The kids were bussed to the interschool sports.
fussed	Everyone fussed over the new baby.
mussed	My bike helmet mussed my hair up.
muffed	I muffed the shot at goal and we lost the game.
cuffed	The police hand-cuffed her and led her away.
buffed	He buffed his new car till it shone.
buzzed	The bee buzzed around.
fuzzed	The fuzzed peach skin was soft.
fizzed	My drink fizzed up.
fished	We fished in the river.
filled	I filled up the bath.
killed	To produce meat, animals are killed.
kicked	She kicked a goal.
kissed	They kissed on both cheeks, mwah, mwah.
hissed	Air hissed out of the hole in the tyre.
hitched	She hitched up her skirt and waded into the creek.
pitched	They pitched a tent.
picked	He picked his nose.
pecked	The hens pecked up their food.
packed	She packed her bag.
patched	They patched the hole up.
matched	For once, her socks matched.
mashed	They mashed the potatoes.
cashed	I cashed a cheque.
bashed	They got a bit bashed up in the crash.
backed	I backed my car into a pole.
lacked	They lacked enthusiasm for my idea.
lashed	He lashed out angrily.
latched	She closed the gate and latched it.
thatched	Thatched roofs are made of straw.
hatched	The chickens hatched.
hacked	Someone hacked into my computer.
hocked	She hocked her camera because she needed money.
locked	They locked the door.
lolled	She fell asleep and her head lolled to one side.
polled	They polled everyone to elect the school captain.
pilled	My favourite jumper is getting a bit pilled.
billed	The gas company billed us too much.
chilled	We serve chilled drinks on hot days.
willed	He is very strong-willed.
milled	They milled the wheat to make flour.

missed	I missed you when you were away.
messed	I messed up again.
meshed	The group has meshed together well.
mushed	We mashed up some seeds for the baby bird.
mucked	They mucked around together on weekends.
sucked	The vacuum cleaner sucked up my jewellery.
tucked	She tucked in her shirt.
ticked	The clock ticked.
licked	The dog licked me.
lucked	We lucked in this time, but maybe next time won't be so lucky.
lulled	The music lulled him to sleep.
culled	They culled the Indian Mynah birds because they were pests.
dulled	Over time the bright paint colour dulled.
ducked	She threw the ball and we all ducked.
docked	My pay was docked for being late.
mocked	He had no friends because he mocked other kids.
rocked	He rocked the baby to sleep.
rolled	The car rolled down the hill.
tolled	The new motorway will be tolled.
tilled	We tilled the soil and planted some seeds.

Now if you don't have the extended/multisyllable words version of the Movable Alphabet, make five extra spellings, preferably on red card or paper (as these are spellings only used after a vowel): "pp", "bb", "gg", "mm" and "nn". If you have the extended/multisyllable version, add these spellings.

Make the word "tipped" (t+i+pp+ed), and say, "This is tipped, as in I tipped the water down the sink". Then ask your learner to change it into:

tinned	We need to get tinned tomatoes.
pinned	She pinned her name badge on.
pigged	They pigged out on chocolate cake.
rigged	They rigged up a makeshift washing line.
ripped	I ripped up my work and started again.
ribbed	She wore horn-rimmed glasses.
ribbed	The tights had a ribbed pattern in them.
rubbed	I rubbed out my mistake.
robbed	They robbed a bank.
lobbed	The tennis player lobbed the ball very high.
lopped	The tree surgeon lopped off the dying branches.
logged	The forest had been logged.
lagged	He lagged behind the group.
lapped	The kitten lapped up the milk.
capped	I capped my highlighter pen so it wouldn't dry out.
canned	Canned tuna is sold in supermarkets.
banned	Mobile phones were banned in class.
bagged	We bagged up our old clothes and gave them to the op shop.

gagged	Some food went down the wrong way and she gagged.
sagged	The old couch had broken springs, and sagged.
sapped	Doing lots of exercise has sapped my energy.
chapped	My lips are chapped.
chopped	We chopped up the vegies.
chipped	Oh no, I've chipped my favourite mug.
shipped	The goods were shipped here from China.
shopped	We shopped for dinner ingredients.
popped	The balloon popped.
pipped	The race favourite was pipped at the post by an outsider.
sipped	I sipped my drink.
supped	After the theatre we supped at a café (as we are tremendously posh).
cupped	She cupped her hands and filled them with water.
copped	I copped an earful from my Dad for not doing my chores.
conned	I conned them into carrying stuff for me.
donned	She donned her costume and went to the ball.
dobbed	He dobbed them in for cheating.
dubbed	The Queen dubbed him Sir Dylan.
dabbed	She dabbed sunscreen on her face.
dagged	We just dagged around at home last holidays.
wagged	The dog wagged its tail.
nagged	My parents nagged me to do my piano practice.
nabbed	The police nabbed the embezzler in an elevator.
napped	I napped for an hour in the afternoon.
nipped	The little dog nipped my finger!
zipped	I zipped up my bag.
dipped	I dipped a carrot stick into the hommous.
dimmed	The lights dimmed and the movie started.
dammed	They dammed the river to store water for the city.
rammed	The truck rammed into the building, but nobody was hurt.
jammed	I jammed my finger in the door.
jabbed	I jabbed her in the ribs to wake her up.
tabbed	The folder has tabbed dividers.
tagged	He always tagged along with us.
tapped	The bird tapped on the window.
yapped	The little dog yapped at the bird.
zapped	The alien zapped her with its ray-gun.
mapped	We mapped out the territory.
manned	They manned the barricades.
panned	The prospectors panned for gold in the river.
penned	She penned a long letter to her father.
pegged	He pegged the washing out.
begged	They begged for mercy.
bogged	The car got bogged in the mud.
bopped	Funky music played and everyone bopped around.
hopped	A kangaroo hopped across the road.

mopped	He mopped the kitchen.
topped	She topped the maths class.
stopped	It's about time we stopped doing this.

Now practice making words longer and shorter:

sat	I sat down.
spat	I spat out my toothpaste.
sprat	A sprat is a kind of small fish.
sprang	They sprang into action.
spring	In spring, many baby animals are born.
string	Tie the parcel up with string.
strong	She is very strong and healthy.
strung	I strung the washing out to dry.
struck	The clock struck one.
truck	Can you drive a truck?
trick	I will play a trick on you.
tick	If you get a question right, give yourself a tick.
tin	A tin is also called a can.
twin	I am not a twin, are you?
twins	Do you know any twins?
wins	I hope our team wins.
wits	We have to keep our wits about us.
twits	They were behaving like twits.
twit	I hope you're not a twit.
twill	Twill is a kind of fabric with a diagonal pattern.
trill	The pet shop filled with the trill of canaries whistling.
krill	Krill are small sea creatures a bit like shrimp, but smaller.
kill	Whales kill krill when they eat them.
skill	Would you like to learn a new skill?
swill	Swill your glass around to mix the drink up.
still	Keep still while you get a haircut.
stitch	I ran really fast and got a stitch.
switch	Can you switch on the radio?
skitch	I'll skitch the dog onto the sheep, to round them up.
skit	We performed a skit at the concert.
snit	She was in a snit with her sister.
sniff	Sniff the milk to make sure it's still OK.
skiff	A skiff is a small sailing boat.
skim	Skim milk has the cream taken out.
slim	Not drinking cream can help you stay slim.
slam	Don't slam the door.
slum	My room is like a slum at the moment, I need to tidy up.
swum	Have you ever swum in the ocean?
swung	She swung higher and higher.
stung	A bee stung me.

slung	I slung my bag over my shoulder.
sung	Have you ever sung in a choir?
song	What's your favourite song?
sop	I use my bread to sop up the last of my soup.
stop	Please stop fidgeting.
strop	A strop is a piece of leather used for sharpening razors.
strap	Check every strap carefully when rock climbing.
strip	I use a strip of dental floss to clean between my teeth.
strips	Sometimes I use two strips, if one breaks.
trips	Have you been on any overseas trips?
rips	Some beaches have dangerous rips.
grips	I need new grips on my bike handlebars.
drips	That tap drips all the time, it's very annoying.
drops	When it rains, drops of water fall from the clouds.
crops	Farmers grow crops.
cops	Police are sometimes called cops.
cups	I'll get the teapot and cups.
caps	Put on your baseball caps.
laps	I swam 20 laps of the pool.
lips	She put lipstick on her lips.
clips	They needed paper clips.
claps	The performers bow and the audience claps.
flaps	The plane has wing flaps used in take-off and landing.
flips	He flips the pancakes.
flops	She flops down on the couch.
flop	The play was a flop, nobody liked it.
floss	Do you floss your teeth?
gloss	She polished her motorcycle to a high gloss.
glob	Glob patterns are used in computer programming.
blob	The blob of beetroot juice ruined her new white shirt.
blab	If I tell you a secret, promise not to blab.
slab	Many houses are built on a concrete slab.
slat	A slat in the base of our couch broke.
splat	A large insect went SPLAT on our windscreen.
splash	They like to splash in puddles.
splish	They went on the waterslides at Splish Splash World.
split	She split the wood for the fire.
spit	Spit out your toothpaste, don't swallow it.
spot	They found a shady spot for a picnic.
pot	I cook soup in a pot.
pat	I got a pat on the head.
prat	If you want a pat on the head don't behave like a prat.
drat	Drat the rain, now our game will be cancelled.
drag	What a drag!
drug	Many illnesses respond to drug treatment.