

Spelfabet movable alphabet

Level 2 sequences



Here are some sequences of four-sound words (CVCCs) that you can make with your movable alphabet, to show a learner how to build and change words, and learn about consonant spellings which tend to go together at word endings.

Don't say letter *names* when using this alphabet. Instead say the *sounds* that each letter/spelling represents in the word(s) you're using. Make sure you use the two or three-letter spellings for single sounds represented by digraphs like "ch", "sh" and "th" and "ve" and trigraphs like "tch" and "dge". If learners make "ch" out of "c" and "h" just replace these letters with the "ch" spelling and say "this one is ch".

Use the alphabet to make a word then tell your learner a word that's one sound different, and ask them to change the original word into the new word by changing one spelling. Their job is to hear where the change is, find the spelling that needs to change, and replace it with the correct new spelling.

Example sentences

An example sentence or two is provided for each word in the sequences below, to make the activity more meaningful, and help build vocabulary. If you can think of better sentences, especially funny ones, great, use your own, and just use my sentences if you can't think of better ones. Your learners may also be able to think of sentences. Make sure you discuss any words they don't know

If working in pairs or groups, ask whoever isn't manipulating the alphabet to do the word-building to write the words being built down. At the end of the activity they might then like to make up a silly story using the words they've written, for extra reading practice, and a laugh.

Use the orange letters a, e, i, o, u and the yellow and green spellings, plus the red "ve"

Make the word "fifth" and ask your learner(s) to read it, then say:

1. Well done, that's "fifth", as in "I came fifth in the race". Please change it into "filth" as in "please wash that filth off your hands, they're filthy".
2. Now make "filch" as in "can I filch a tissue? Our box is empty"
3. Now make "finch", a finch is a small bird.
4. Now make "pinch" as in "I had to pinch myself because I couldn't believe what I was seeing"
5. Now make "punch" as in "a pinch and a punch for the first of the month"
6. Now make "hunch" as in "I had a hunch there was something fishy going on"
7. Now make "lunch" as in "what have you got for lunch?"
8. Now make "bunch" as in "a bunch of flowers"
9. Now make "bench" as in "put the groceries on the bench"
10. Now make "belch", a belch is a loud burp
11. Now make "welch" as in "don't you dare welch on our deal"

12. Now make "Welsh" as in "people from Wales are Welsh"
13. Now make "welt" as in "I've got a big welt on my leg from my accident"
14. Now make "weld" as in "weld those two wires together"
15. Now make "wend" as in "we're just going to wend our way down to the beach, we're not in a hurry"
16. Now make "wind" as in "the wind blew my hat off"
17. Now make "wink" as in "don't wink at me"
18. Now make "dink" as in "I'll give you a dink on my bike"
19. Now make "disk" as in a computer disk
20. Now make "desk" as in "my computer is on my desk"
21. Now make "dusk" as in "the sun sets at dusk"
22. Now make "tusk" as in "an elephant's tusk"
23. Now make "busk" as in "musicians busk in the mall"
24. Now make "rusk" as in a baby's teething rusk
25. Now make "rust" as in "that metal will rust if it gets wet"
26. Now make "rest" as in "He needs to have a rest"
27. Now make "rent" as in "pay the rent"
28. Now make "runt" as in "the smallest puppy in a litter is called the runt"
29. Now make "rant" as in "please don't rant at me"
30. Now make "chant" as in "they started to chant"
31. Now make "pant" as in "dogs pant to cool themselves down"
32. Now make "punt" as in "they went for a punt on the lake"
33. Now make "punk" as in "do you like punk rock music?"
34. Now make "pink" as in the colour pink
35. Now make "mink", a mink is an animal like an otter
36. Now make "mint" as in "I had an after dinner mint"
37. Now make "mist" as in "there was mist in the air and dew on the grass"
38. Now make "must" as in "I must remember her birthday"
39. Now make "dust" as in "it was covered in dust"
40. Now make "bust" as in "there was a bust of the Queen in the gallery"
41. Now make "best" as in "my team is the best"
42. Now make "bent" as in "my handlebars were bent"
43. Now make "belt" as in the thing that holds up your trousers
44. Now make "melt" as in "the snow will melt"
45. Now make "pelt" as in "I'll pelt you with snowballs"
46. Now make "pest", are you a pest?
47. Now make "west" as in "they travelled west"
48. Now make "went" as in "they went shopping"
49. Now make "sent" as in "I sent you a postcard"
50. Now make "send" as in "Want me to send another one?"
51. Now make "bend" as in "a river bend"
52. Now make "band" as in "a rubber band"
53. Now make "hand" as in "Can you give me a hand?"
54. Now make "sand" as in "a sand castle"
55. Now make "sank" as in "the boat sank"
56. Now make "bank" as in "she works in a bank"

57. Now make "bunk", do you sleep in a bunk?
58. Now make "junk" as in "junk mail"
59. Now make "hunk" as in "I had soup with a big hunk of bread"
60. Now make "hulk" as in "the incredible Hulk"
61. Now make "bulk" as in "we buy in bulk because it's cheaper"
62. Now make "sulk" as in "please don't sulk"
63. Now make "sunk" as in "the boat has sunk"
64. Now make "sink" as in "why did it sink?"
65. Now make "link" as in "let's link arms"
66. Now make "lint" as in "I have to clean the lint filter on the washing machine"
67. Now make "lent" as in "The librarian lent me the books"
68. Now make "lend" as in "I can lend you my ruler"
69. Now make "land" as in "when will the plane land?"
70. Now make "lank" as in "my hair is lank and dull, I need to wash it"
71. Now make "tank" as in a water tank
72. Now make "yank" as in "babies love to yank people's hair"
73. Now make "rank" as in a taxi rank
74. Now make "rink" as in a skating rink
75. Now make "think" as in "what do you think?"
76. Now make "thank" as in "I can't thank you enough"
77. Now make "shank" as in lamb shank soup
78. Now make "shonk" as in "don't buy anything from him, he's a bit of a shonk"
79. Now make "chonk" as in "don't chonk your spoon on your teeth, please"
80. Now make "chink" as in "a chink of light came through the crack in the wall"
81. Now make "chin" as in "not by the hair of my chinny chin chin"
82. Now make "chip" as in a potato chip
83. Now make "chimp", short for chimpanzee
84. Now make "wimp" as in "she's a bit of a wimp and a sooky la la"
85. Now make "limp" as in "he walks with a limp"
86. Now make "lamp" as in "turn on the lamp"
87. Now make "lump" as in a lump of sugar
88. Now make "dump" as in "don't just dump your rubbish here"
89. Now make "chump" as in "don't be a chump, use your brain"
90. Now make "jump" as in "jump up and down"
91. Now make "pump" as in "pump up that tyre, it's flat"
92. Now make "pulp" as in "she squeezed the orange and put the pulp in the compost"
93. Now make "gulp" as in "please don't gulp your drink all down at once"
94. Now make "gulf" as in the Persian Gulf, or the Gulf of Carpentaria
95. Now make "golf" as in "Nan plays golf every Wednesday"
96. Now make "gold" as in "is that ring made of gold?"
97. Now make "sold" as in "going once, going twice, sold for \$400,000 to the woman in the blue hat!"
98. Now make "solve" as in "can you solve this problem?"
99. Now make "salve" as in "you need to put some salve on that cut, and then a bandage"
100. Now make "valve", as in a tyre valve.

Some words contain the same sounds and letters, but rearranged slightly, and to spell well you need to be good at hearing which order the sounds are in, and thus getting the letters in the right order.

Make the word “cost” and ask your learner(s) to read it, then say:

1. Well done, that’s “cost”, as in “how much does this cost?” Please change it into “cots” as in “the babies were asleep in their cots”.
2. Now make “lots” as in “we had lots of fun”
3. Now make “lost” as in “I’ve lost my keys”
4. Now make “lest” as in “lest we forget”
5. Now make “lets” as in “lets go this way”
6. Now make “jets” as in “jets are very fast planes”
7. Now make “jest” as in “I only meant it in jest, I wasn’t serious”
8. Now make “vest”, a vest is like a coat without sleeves
9. Now make “vets” as in “there are six vets at the animal hospital”
10. Now make “pets” as in “the vets look after our pets”
11. Now make “pest”, would your brother or sister say you’re a pest?
12. Now make “west” as in “go west young woman”
13. Now make “wets” as in “the rain wets my hair”
14. Now make “nets” as in fishing nets
15. Now make “nest” as in a bird’s nest
16. Now make “fest”, short for festival, like in confest or comedy fest
17. Now make “fist”, close your hand into a fist
18. Now make “fits” as in “if the glove fits, wear it”
19. Now make “bits” as in “bits and pieces”
20. Now make “bets” as in “she bets she can win”
21. Now make “best” as in “she can win because she’s the best”
22. Now make “bust” as in “victory or bust”
23. Now make “buts” as in “no ifs and no buts”
24. Now make “juts” as in “the rock juts out into the sea”
25. Now make “just” as in “just give me a minute”
26. Now make “gust” as in “a gust of wind”
27. Now make “guts” as in “blood and guts”
28. Now make “ruts” as in “the gravel road was full of ruts”
29. Now make “rust” as in “my car has got some rust in it”
30. Now make “lust” as in “You’ll just have to lust after that toy till you’ve saved enough to buy it”
31. Now make “list” as in “a shopping list”
32. Now make “lisp” as in “she talks with a lisp”
33. Now make “lips” as in “I put lipstick on my lips”
34. Now make “laps” as in “I swam 20 laps of the pool”
35. Now make “caps” as in baseball caps
36. Now make “cups” as in “cups of tea”
37. Now make “cusp” as in “I’m on the cusp of making a great discovery”

Now let's make some past tense verbs/past participles.

As well as the spellings used above, you need the red "ck", "ff", "ll", "ss", "zz", "tch" and "ed" spellings.

Make the word "notched" (n + o + tch + ed) and ask your learner(s) to read it, then say:

1. Well done, that's "notched", as in "my team notched up another win this weekend". Please change it into "botched" as in "the operation was botched and he needed more surgery"
2. Now make "bossed" as in "he bossed her around"
3. Now make "bussed" as in "they bussed the children to the interschool sports"
4. Now make "fussed" as in "everyone fussed over the new baby"
5. Now make "cussed" as in "he smashed his finger with the hammer and cussed"
6. Now make "cuffed" as in "the policeman hand-cuffed her and led her away"
7. Now make "buffed" as in "he buffed his trophy till it shone"
8. Now make "buzzed" as in "the bee buzzed around"
9. Now make "fuzzed" as in "the image fuzzed and then disappeared"
10. Now make "fizzed" as in "my drink fizzed when I opened it"
11. Now make "fished" as in "we fished in the river"
12. Now make "filled" as in "I filled up the bath"
13. Now make "killed" as in "animals are killed to make meat"
14. Now make "kicked" as in "she kicked a goal"
15. Now make "kissed" as in "they kissed on both cheeks, mwah, mwah"
16. Now make "hissed" as in "air hissed out of the hole in the tyre"
17. Now make "hitched" as in "she hitched up her skirt and waded across the creek"
18. Now make "pitched" as in "they pitched a tent"
19. Now make "picked" as in "He picked his nose"
20. Now make "pecked" as in "the hens pecked up their food"
21. Now make "packed" as in "she packed her bag"
22. Now make "patched" as in "he patched up the hole"
23. Now make "matched" as in "for once, her socks matched"
24. Now make "mashed" as in mashed potatoes
25. Now make "cashed" as in "I cashed a cheque"
26. Now make "bashed" as in "they got a bit bashed up"
27. Now make "backed" as in "I backed my car into a tree"
28. Now make "lacked" as in "she lacked enthusiasm for my idea"
29. Now make "lashed" as in "he lashed out angrily"
30. Now make "latched" as in "he closed the gate and latched it so the dog couldn't escape"
31. Now make "thatched" as in "thatched roofs on old houses are made of straw"
32. Now make "hatched" as in "the chicks hatched"
33. Now make "hacked" as in "someone hacked into my computer"
34. Now make "hocked" as in "she hocked her camera because she needed money"
35. Now make "locked" as in "they locked the door"
36. Now make "lollled" as in "she fell asleep and her head lolled to one side"
37. Now make "polled" as in "they polled the whole school to elect the school captain"
38. Now make "pilled" as in "this jumper is getting all pilled"
39. Now make "billed" as in "the electricity company billed us too much"

40. Now make "chilled" as in "we chilled the drinks in the fridge"
41. Now make "willed" as in "she is very strong-willed"
42. Now make "milled" as in "they milled the wheat to make flour"
43. Now make "missed" as in "I missed you when you were gone"
44. Now make "messed" as in "I've messed this up"
45. Now make "meshed" as in "they've meshed together really well"
46. Now make "mushed" as in "we mushed up some cereal and fed it to the baby bird"
47. Now make "mucked" as in "they mucked around all day"
48. Now make "sucked" as in "the vacuum cleaner sucked up my jewellery"
49. Now make "tucked" as in "she tucked in her shirt"
50. Now make "ticked" as in "the clock ticked"
51. Now make "licked" as in "the dog licked me"
52. Now make "lucked" as in "we lucked in that time, maybe next time we won't be so lucky"
53. Now make "lulled" as in "we lulled them into a false sense of security"
54. Now make "culled" as in "they culled the Indian mynah birds because they were pests"
55. Now make "dulled" as in "over time the bright paint on the picture dulled"
56. Now make "ducked" as in "a rock flew up and we all ducked"
57. Now make "docked" as in "they docked my pay because I was late"
58. Now make "mocked" as in "they mocked him for wearing daggy clothes"
59. Now make "rocked" as in "he rocked the baby to sleep"
60. Now make "rolled" as in "the car rolled down the hill"
61. Now make "tolled" as in "the new motorway is tolled"
62. Now make "tilled" as in "we tilled the soil before we planted the seeds"

Now make five extra spellings, on red card, paper or post-it notes if you can since these are ending spellings (but another colour is OK): **"pp", "bb", "gg", "mm" and "nn"**.

Make the word "tipped" (t + i + pp + ed) and ask your learner(s) to read it, then say:

1. Well done, that's "tipped", as in "I tipped the dirty water down the sink". Please change it into "tinned" as in "we need to buy some tinned tomatoes"
2. Now make "pinned" as in "she pinned on a badge"
3. Now make "pigged" as in "they pigged out on chocolate cake"
4. Now make "rigged" as in "they rigged up a makeshift washing line"
5. Now make "ripped" as in "I ripped up my work and started again"
6. Now make "rimmed" as in "she wore horn-rimmed glasses"
7. Now make "ribbed" as in "the jumper had a ribbed pattern in it"
8. Now make "rubbed" as in "I rubbed out my mistake"
9. Now make "robbed" as in "they robbed a bank"
10. Now make "lobbed" as in "the tennis player lobbed the ball over the net"
11. Now make "lopped" as in "the tree surgeon lopped off the dying branches"
12. Now make "logged" as in "that forest has been logged"
13. Now make "lagged" as in "he lagged behind the group"
14. Now make "lapped" as in "the cat lapped up the milk"
15. Now make "capped" as in "I squeezed out some toothpaste and capped the tube"
16. Now make "canned" as in "canned tuna is sold in supermarkets"

17. Now make "banned" as in "mobile phones are banned in class"
18. Now make "bagged" as in "we bagged up our old clothes and gave them to the op shop"
19. Now make "gagged" as in "the kidnappers tied up and gagged the hostages"
20. Now make "sagged" as in "the old couch had broken springs, and sagged"
21. Now make "sapped" as in "doing all that exercise has sapped my energy"
22. Now make "chapped" as in "my lips are chapped, I need a chapstick"
23. Now make "chopped" as in "we chopped up the vegies"
24. Now make "chipped" as in "Oh no, I've chipped my favourite mug"
25. Now make "shipped" as in "these goods are shipped here from China"
26. Now make "shopped" as in "we shopped for dinner ingredients"
27. Now make "popped" as in "the balloon popped"
28. Now make "pipped" as in "the race favourite was pipped at the post by an outsider"
29. Now make "sipped" as in "I sipped my drink"
30. Now make "supped" as in "after visiting the theatre we supped at a cafe"
31. Now make "cupped" as in "she cupped her hands and filled them with water"
32. Now make "copped" as in "I copped an earful from my dad for being late"
33. Now make "conned" as in "I conned them into carrying my bags for me"
34. Now make "donned" as in "she donned her costume and went to the ball"
35. Now make "dobbed" as in "he dobbed on them for cheating"
36. Now make "dubbed" as in "the Queen dubbed him Sir Dylan"
37. Now make "dabbed" as in "he dabbed paint on the canvas"
38. Now make "dagged" as in "we just dagged around all holidays"
39. Now make "wagged" as in "the dog wagged its tail"
40. Now make "nagged" as in "my parents nagged me to do my piano practice"
41. Now make "nabbed" as in "the police nabbed him at the railway station before he could board the train"
42. Now make "napped" as in "I napped for an hour before dinner"
43. Now make "nipped" as in "that naughty little dog nipped me!"
44. Now make "zipped" as in "I zipped up my bag"
45. Now make "dipped" as in "I dipped a carrot stick in the hoummous"
46. Now make "dimmed" as in "the lights dimmed"
47. Now make "dammed" as in "they dammed the river to supply water to the city"
48. Now make "rammed" as in "the truck rammed into the building, but luckily nobody was hurt"
49. Now make "jammed" as in "my door is jammed, I can't open it"
50. Now make "jabbed" as in "the needle jabbed into my arm, but it didn't really hurt"
51. Now make "tabbed" as in "this folder has tabbed dividers in it"
52. Now make "tagged" as in "he always tagged along with us"
53. Now make "tapped" as in "she tapped on the window"
54. Now make "yapped" as in "the little dog yapped when it heard her tapping"
55. Now make "zapped" as in "the alien zapped them with its ray-gun"
56. Now make "mapped" as in "we mapped out the territory"
57. Now make "manned" as in "they manned the barricades"
58. Now make "panned" as in "the prospectors panned for gold in the river"
59. Now make "penned" as in "she penned a long letter"
60. Now make "pegged" as in "he pegged the washing out"
61. Now make "begged" as in "they begged for mercy"

62. Now make “bogged” as in “my car got bogged in the mud”
63. Now make “bopped” as in “the funky music played and everyone bopped around”
64. Now make “hopped” as in “the kangaroo hopped across the clearing”
65. Now make “mopped” as in “he mopped the kitchen”
66. Now make “topped” as in “she topped the maths class”
67. Now make “stopped” as in “it’s about time we stopped doing this”

The Last Word

Now try playing a game in which you create a word then take turns to change a single spelling in it to make a new word, using the spellings you’ve learnt so far. Use only one orange spelling at a time. No repetition of words is allowed. The winner is the person who makes the last word.