

The Short Vowel Sound

Now you start to blend the sound of letters together to make words. The words may be real or nonsense words. The vowel in each word in this activity will always have a short sound.

1. The letter **'a'** will always have the sound as in **'at'**
2. The letter **'e'** will always have the sound as in **'egg'**
3. The letter **'i'** will always have the sound as in **'it'**
4. The letter **'o'** will always have the sound as in **'on'**
5. The letter **'u'** will always have the sound as in **'up'**

Usually, in English, if you see only one vowel in a word, and the vowel is not at the end of the word, the vowel will have a short sound. So, in words where the vowel is at the start of a word, followed by a consonant, as in 'am' the vowel has a short sound. Also, if the vowel is in a 'consonant, vowel, consonant' word, or syllable, as in 'cat', the vowel has a short sound.

You will start with what we call stems, where the 'word' is just a vowel followed by a consonant, such as 'im' or 'ag'. The two letters blend together to make one sound. Many of these words are not real words, but stems are often parts of larger words with several syllables, such as 'im/per/fect'.

Next, you will try real words, where three letters blend together to make one sound. Again the vowel will always have a short sound in words like, cat, men, sit, dot, cup.

Lastly you will try nonsense words where three letters again blend together to make one sound. The vowel will again have a short sound in words like dav, nef, pid, coz, tud. These nonsense words are often part of longer words with several syllables, such as, com/pet/ent. So this helps you to recognize the sounds these make in longer words.

You will start with a chart of words where the words will be on lines, one after the other. Then when you are familiar with the words, you will have to read them in time to a beat. You will then try saying the words after they are flashed 2 or 3 at a time. Then you will try saying the words faster and faster as they jump across on the screen, one at a time. Lastly several words will jump across the screen very quickly from left to right and you will say them.

Step 1. Word chart - Say the sound the two letters make

Click on '**Run Activity**' at the top of this screen.

1. Click on '**Word chart**' from the menu at the top of the screen.
2. Click on '**Stems**' from the word list.
3. Click on '**New Chart**' in the bottom right corner of the screen

There will be a chart of two letter word 'stems' on the screen. You have to look at the first word (on the left side) and say the sound it makes. Try to say the word as one single sound, rather than sounding out the word as two sounds. Then say the sound of the next word. Keep saying the sound that each word makes across the line. When you have finished click on 'new chart' at the bottom right of the screen to show another chart.

Your goal is to say the sound of each word, line by line without losing your place.

Step 2. Sounds with a beat

1. Click on '**Presentation**' then click on '**Word chart to a beat**'. The beat will automatically be set at 1.0 second.
2. Click on '**New Chart**' in the bottom right corner of the screen.

Now say the sound of each word across the rows, saying the sound of a word on every beat. Your helper can change the words to a new chart when you are finished.

Your goal is to say the sound of each word, line by line, exactly in time to the beat, without losing your place.

Step 3. Flashing words

1. Click on '**Presentation**' then click on '**Flashing words**'
2. Click on '**Number**' then click on '**2**'
3. Click on '**Start**' at the bottom right of the screen

Now 2 short words will flash at the same time. The flash rate is automatically set at 0.50 seconds. You have to tell your helper the words you saw on the screen. Then click on '**check**' to show the words again. Continue to flash the words and check your answers.

Your goal is to get 8 or more out of 10 correct.

You can then try 3 words flashed at the same time.

Do this by clicking on 'number' then clicking on '3'.

Step 4. Fast naming

1. Click on '**Presentation**' then click on '**Fast naming**' from the menu at the top of the screen. The flash rate will automatically start at 1.4 seconds.
2. Click on '**Start**'

Look at the left side of the screen. A list of words will be presented on the screen. The first word will change its colour from white to green. You have to say the sound of that word before it changes its colour to white again. After this, the next word will change colour. Say the sound of this word. Keep saying the sound of the words as they change colour on the screen. If you can't keep up, change the flash rate to 1.6 seconds. When you can keep up, increase the flash rate again to 1.4 seconds. If you can keep at this speed, increase the flash rate to 1.2 seconds. As you improve keep increasing the speed to 1.0 then 0.9 seconds etc.

Your goal is to say the sound of each word at a flash rate of 0.9 seconds or better.

Step 5. Word sequence

1. Click on '**Presentation**' then click on '**Word sequence**' from the menu at the top.
2. Click on '**Number**' and click on '**2**'. The flash rate will be automatically set at 0.25 seconds.
3. Click on '**Start**'

Look at the left side of the centre box on the screen. A word will come on the screen then disappear. After this, another word will come on the screen next to where the first word appeared. After both words have appeared on the screen, one after the other, say the sound of the 2 words in the same order in which they were on the screen.

Then click on 'check' to show the 2 words again. Click on 'start' again for the next 2 words.

Your goal is to say the sound of the two words so you get at least 8 or more out of 10 correct.

Then you can try 3 words flashed in a row by changing the 'number' to 3.

Your goal is again to get 8 or more correct out of 10.

Step 6. Real words 1

1. Click on '**Word list**' then click on '**Real words 1**' from the menu at the top.
2. Click on '**Presentation**' and click on '**Word chart**'.

All the words will have 3 letters and will be 'consonant, vowel, consonant' words, such as man, dig, or got. Now you have to go through all the 5 steps above, but the words will be real words. Again the vowel always has a short sound.

The 5 steps and their goals will be:

1. **Word chart** - read each word across the lines without losing your place
2. **Word chart to a beat** - read each word in time to the beat (change 'presentation' to 'word chart to a beat')
3. **Flashing words** - say 2 then 3 words after they are flashed at the same time. (change 'presentation' to 'flashing words')
4. **Fast naming** - call the words one after the other at a flash rate of 0.9 seconds or better (change 'presentation' to 'fast naming')
5. **Word sequence** - say 2 then 3 words after they flash in a sequence.(change the 'presentation to 'word sequence')

Step 7. Real words 2

Click on '**Real words 2**' from the '**Word list**' at the top.

All the words will now have four letters with a blend sound at the start or end on the word, such as stag, flip, list.

Go through the 5 steps again where you work through **charts, chart with a beat, flashing words, fast naming and word sequence. Your goals are the same.**

Step 8. Nonsense words

Click on '**Nonsense words**' from the word list at the top.

All the words will now have 3 letters, but they will not be real words. They are all 'consonant, vowel, consonant' words such as dif, lem, bot, or tuk. The vowel will always have a short sound.

Progress through the 5 steps, **chart**, **chart with the beat**, **flashing words**, **fast naming** and **word sequence**. **Your goals are the same**