

Blending practice

59

Lesson 59 of 92 (ages 3-6) / 53 of 86 (age 7+) · Digraphs & Blends · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

GOAL

Your child can blend the sounds to read: this, that, then, them, than, thus.

WHY IT MATTERS

Blending is reading: saying each sound and pushing them together until a word pops out. Every word your child will ever decode is built this way.

YOU'LL NEED

- The practice sheet for this lesson (worksheet.pdf) and a pencil or crayon.
- The lesson page on a phone or tablet, for the sounds and games.

LESSON FLOW about 10 minutes

1 min

Warm up

Quick flash of the last sounds: write "th", "th", "sh" on paper, point, and your child says each sound.

SAY | *"What sound is this? And this one?"*

2 min

Listen

Tap each word on the lesson page and let your child hear it.

2 min

Show how

Point under each sound, say it, then sweep your finger along and say the word faster.

SAY | *"th... i... s... this!"*

2 min

Do it together

Your child reads the words on the practice sheet, then does the sound boxes. Then read the sentence: "Then the fish shop shut."

2 min

Play

Play the sound boxes and hear-it-read-it games on the lesson page.

1 min

Wrap up

Let your child pick their favorite word and write it for the fridge.

USE WITH THIS LESSON

- **This lesson online (listening + games)**
phonicademy.com/plan/session/blend-10
- **Printable: Word-Mapping / Elkonin Boxes (PDF)**
phonicademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-elkonin-boxes-worksheet
- **Read: Digraphs List (Free PDF): ch, sh, th, ph, wh, ng**
phonicademy.com/blog/digraphs-ch-sh-th
- **Printable: Blending Practice Worksheet (Free PDF)**
phonicademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-blending-practice-worksheet
- **Printable: Digraphs Cheat Sheet (PDF)**
phonicademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-digraphs
- **Read: Consonant Blends: Full List, How to Teach Them + Free PDF**
phonicademy.com/blog/consonant-blends-list

SOUND BOXES

Say each word. Your child says one sound per box (or writes it).

#	SAY / SHOW	CHOICES	ANSWER	
1	"this"	3 boxes	th - i - s	☐
2	"that"	3 boxes	th - a - t	☐
3	"then"	3 boxes	th - e - n	☐
4	"them"	3 boxes	th - e - m	☐
5	"than"	3 boxes	th - a - n	☐
6	"thus"	3 boxes	th - u - s	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

Says each sound but can't join them.	-> Say the sounds again faster each time: c...a...t, c..a..t, cat. Keep the first sound going into the next.
Adds "uh" to sounds (cuh-a-tuh).	-> Clip the stop sounds short. "Tuh" can't blend into a word; /t/ can.
Guesses from the first letter.	-> Cover the word and uncover it one sound at a time so every sound gets said.

TOO HARD? MAKE IT EASIER

Blend out loud first: you say the sounds, your child says the word. Then move to reading.

TOO EASY? MAKE IT HARDER

Read the sentence and draw it: "Then the fish shop shut."

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

- ☐ Reads at least 4 of: this, that, then, them, than, thus.
- ☐ Blends without adding "uh" to the sounds.

Date: _____

Colour in the stars:



Notes: _____