

New sound: nk

63

Lesson 63 of 92 (ages 3-6) / 57 of 86 (age 7+) · Digraphs & Blends · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

GOAL

Your child can say /nk/ when they see "nk", and hear it in words like sink.

WHY IT MATTERS

"nk" is 2 letters that make ONE sound. Seeing them as one unit stops your child reading the letters separately, and unlocks words like sink, pink, bank.

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 "ng", "th", "th" on paper, point, and your child says each sound.

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

2 min

Listen

Play /nk/ on the lesson page three times. Your child watches your mouth and copies.

SAY | *"This is /nk/. Watch my mouth: nasal 'n' then 'k'."*

2 min

Show how

Show the letters "nk" and the action: Tap your nose and say nk-nk-nk. Then tap the words on the lesson page.

SAY | *"When I see nk, I say /nk/. sink: /nk/ sink!"*
"Two letters, one sound. They're best friends: they always stick together."

2 min

Do it together

Sound hunt: find 3 things at home with /nk/. Then do the trace-and-write part of the practice sheet. Read together: sink, pink, bank, tank, drink, junk.

2 min

Play

Play the games on the lesson page: hear /nk/ and tap its letters.

1 min

Wrap up

Ask your child to teach the sound and action to someone else in the family.

SAY | *"Can you show Grandma our new sound?"*

USE WITH THIS LESSON

- **This lesson online (listening + games)**
phonicsacademy.com/plan/session/sound-nk
- **Printable: Digraphs Worksheet — NG (Free PDF)**
phonicsacademy.com/printables/digraphs-worksheet-ng
- **Read: Digraphs List (Free PDF): ch, sh, th, ph, wh, ng**
phonicsacademy.com/blog/digraphs-ch-sh-th
- **The "nk" sound — full page**
phonicsacademy.com/phonemes/nk
- **Printable: Digraphs Cheat Sheet (PDF)**
phonicsacademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-digraphs
- **Read: Consonant Blends: Full List, How to Teach Them + Free PDF**
phonicsacademy.com/blog/consonant-blends-list

HEAR IT, FIND IT

Say the sound (not the letter name). Your child points to the letters. Tick first-try answers.

#	SAY / SHOW	CHOICES	ANSWER	
1	Say /nk/	nk, ng, th	nk	☐
2	Say /ng/	ng, nk, th	ng	☐
3	Say /th/ (as in feather)	th, nk, ng	th	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

Says the sound too quickly to hear.	-> /nk/ can be stretched: hold it like a long note, nknknknk, then let go.
Reads the letters one by one (n-k).	-> Put one finger under both letters at once: "these two make one sound".
Forgets the sound the next day.	-> Normal! Repeat the action and the keyword daily for a week: the action is the memory hook.

TOO HARD? MAKE IT EASIER

Only do the listening parts today: hear it, say it, find it in pictures. Save the writing for tomorrow.

TOO EASY? MAKE IT HARDER

Read these words and then write two of them from memory: sink, pink, bank, tank, drink, junk.

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

- ☐ Says /nk/ when shown "nk".
- ☐ Hears /nk/ in a word you say (sink).
- ☐ Writes "nk" as one sound unit.

Date: _____

Colour in the stars:



Notes: _____