

New sound: sh

56

Lesson 56 of 92 (ages 3-6) / 50 of 86 (age 7+) · Digraphs & Blends · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

GOAL

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

WHY IT MATTERS

"sh" is 2 letters that make ONE sound. Seeing them as one unit stops your child reading the letters separately, and unlocks words like ship, shop, shut.

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 "ch", "qu", "z" on paper, point, and your child says each sound.

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

2 min

Listen

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

SAY *"This is /sh/. Watch my mouth: lips pushed forward, blow."*

2 min

Show how

Show the letters "sh" and the action: Put finger to lips and say shhhh. Then tap the words on the lesson page.

SAY *"When I see sh, I say /sh/. ship: /sh/ ship!"*
"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 /sh/. Then do the trace-and-write part of the practice sheet. Read together: ship, shop, shut, shed, shell, fish.

2 min

Play

Play the games on the lesson page: hear /sh/ and tap its letters, then find where the sound is in a word.

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-sh
- **Printable: Digraphs Worksheet — SH (Free PDF)**
phonicsacademy.com/printables/digraphs-worksheet-sh
- **Read: Digraphs List (Free PDF): ch, sh, th, ph, wh, ng**
phonicsacademy.com/blog/digraphs-ch-sh-th
- **The “sh” sound — full page**
phonicsacademy.com/phonemes/sh
- **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 /sh/	sh, ch, qu	sh	☐
2	Say /ch/	ch, j, sh	ch	☐
3	Say /qu/	qu, sh, ch	qu	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

- | | |
|--|--|
| Says the sound too quickly to hear. | -> /sh/ can be stretched: hold it like a long note, shshshsh, then let go. |
| Reads the letters one by one (s-h). | -> Put one finger under both letters at once: "these two make one sound". |
| Mixes up /sh/ and /zh/. | -> Same pushed-out lips — the zh in "treasure" just adds a buzz from your voice box. |

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: ship, shop, shut, shed, shell, fish.

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

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

Date: _____

Colour in the stars:



Notes: _____