

Word Chaining with Consonant Digraphs

Purpose: strengthen word-reading fluency

READING WORDS

In this activity, teachers start with a short word (real or nonsense) then change a single letter or sound to make a new word for students to read. This activity can be done with the whole class or in small groups.

Materials:

- set of lowercase letter cards a, b, c, ch, d, e, f, g, h, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, sh, t, th, u, w

Directions:

- Select the letter cards needed to build all the words in the lesson. (If students need to review the letter sounds prior to reading words, do a quick warm-up with the cards.)
- Build a word with the letter cards, such as *wish*, and make sure all students can see the word. You can do this with a pocket chart, document camera, whiteboard, etc.
- Say, "Let's make the sounds together and then read the word: /w/, /i/, /sh/, *wish*"
- Place a new letter card on top of one of the existing letter cards. For instance, place a 'd' on top of the 'w' to turn *wish* into *dish*.
- Students read the new word as a group. (To scaffold, you can have students say each of the sounds first before blending into the word.)
- Be sure to discuss the meanings of words as needed to help build students' vocabulary along the way.



Word Chaining Example

original word

ch a p

substitution

ch a t

substitution

ch o t

Word Chaining with Consonant Digraphs

Beginning 'ch'	Beginning 'sh'	Ending 'sh'	Beginning 'th'	Ending 'th'	Mixed 'ch', 'sh', 'th'
chap	shop	hush	them	bath	chat
chat	shot	rush	then	path	chap
chot	shut	rash	thet	math	chip
chop	shun	bash	that	moth	ship
chip	shin	cash	thut	goth	shop
chup	ship	dash	thud	gith	mop
chum	shep	dish	thid	with	moth
chun	shed	wish	thin		math
chin		fish	thip		path
			this		bath
			thus		bash
					cash
					rash
					rush



a

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b

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c

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ch

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d

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e

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f

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w

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