

# Word Chaining with R-Controlled Vowels

**Purpose:** strengthen word-reading fluency

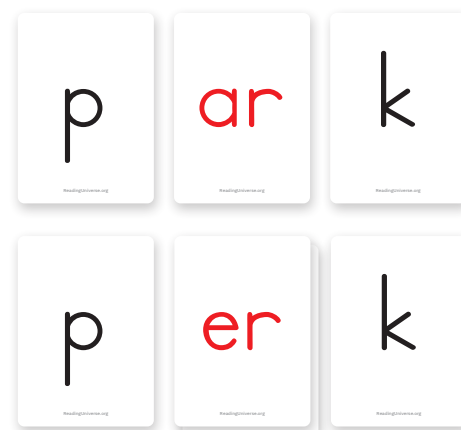
In this activity, teachers will turn short words into new words by changing a single letter or sound, and students will read the words.

## Materials:

- set of lowercase letter cards b, c, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, s, t (x2), y, ch (x2), sh, th, ar, or, er, ir, ur

## 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 (i.e., *bark*) and make sure all students can see the word. You can do this with a pocket chart, document camera, whiteboard, etc. For the r-controlled vowels, use the single card that has both the vowel and the 'r' (so *bark* is made up of three cards).
- Say, "Let's make the sounds together and then read the word: /b/, /ar/, /k/, *bark*."
- Switch the word by replacing, adding, or subtracting a sound. For instance, replace the 'b' with a 'p' to turn *bark* into *park*.
- Have students, as a group, say the sounds in the word if they need that level of scaffolding (/p/, /ar/, /k/, *park*). Otherwise just have the group read the new word.
- Remember to discuss word meanings all along the way!



## Word Chaining Example

original word

b ar k

substitution

p ar k

substitution

p er k

deletion

p er

# Word Chaining with R-Controlled Vowels

'ar'		
far	barn	art
bar	yarn	arm
car	yard	farm
card	card	harm
hard	cart	charm
hark	chart	chart
bark	tart	mart
park	start	smart
part	dart	start
cart	dark	tart
	shark	cart

## VOCABULARY NOTE:

**chart:** A chart is like a graph – it's a way of showing information in a drawing. We can make a chart that shows how tall each person in the class is. To chart can also mean to make a map of something.

**yard:** A yard is the land outside of someone's house. A yard is also a unit of measurement that's about 3 feet. A football field is 100 yards long.

## Word Chaining with R-Controlled Vowels

'or'	
or	born
nor	horn
for	torn
fort	corn
fork	cord
pork	ford
port	fork
sport	pork
sort	porch
short	torch
<p><b>VOCABULARY NOTE:</b></p> <p><b>sort:</b> To sort means to organize. I need to sort my socks and put them in the drawer.</p> <p><b>ford:</b> A ford is part of a river or stream that's not too deep and you can cross it. It is also an action word that means to cross the water. I will take my shoes off and ford the river.</p>	

## Word Chaining with R-Controlled Vowels

### Mixed 'ar' and 'or'

or	form	corn
for	farm	torn
far	harm	thorn
bar	charm	born
bark	chart	barn
barn	part	yarn
born	port	yard
corn	porch	card
torn	torch	carp
thorn	scorch	sharp

#### VOCABULARY NOTE:

**scorch:** To scorch means to burn the surface of something. The iron was too hot and it scorched the dress.

**porch:** A porch is a covered structure connected to a house or building. Let's sit on the porch and have some lemonade.

## Word Chaining with R-Controlled Vowels

### Mixed 'ar', 'or', 'er', 'ir', 'ur'

**churn**

**t**urn

**b**urn

**b**arn

**b**ark

**s**hark

**l**ark

**C**lark

**c**lerk

**p**erk

**first**

**th**irst

**th**ird

**b**ird

**b**irk

**i**rk

**s**mirk

**s**mir**t**

**s**mar**t**

**c**har**t**

**p**ar**t**

**p**or**t**

**urn**

**b**urn

**c**hurn

**c**hur**ch**

**l**ur**ch**

**l**ur**k**

**s**ur**f**

**t**ur**f**

**t**ur**n**

**t**or**n**

#### VOCABULARY NOTE:

**smirk:** A smirk is a sneaky smile that means you know something other people don't know. The boy smirked after he stole the markers off his classmate's desk.

**turf:** Turf can mean fake grass. The indoor soccer field was made of turf. It can also mean the surface layer of real grass and the soil it's connected to.



b

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c

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d

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f

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h

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k

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l

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m

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n

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p

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s

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t

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+

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y

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ch

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ch

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sh

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th

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ar

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or

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er

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ir

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ur

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