

Word Chaining with Short 'u'

Purpose: strengthen word-reading fluency

READING WORDS

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: set of lowercase letter cards: a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u

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 (for example, *mud*) 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: /m/, /ü/, /d/, *mud*."
- Switch the word by placing a new letter on top of an existing letter. For instance, place a 'g' on top of the 't' to turn *mud* into *mug*.
- Have students, as a group, say the sounds in the word if they need that level of scaffolding (/m/, /ü/, /g/, *mug*). Otherwise just have the group read the new word.
- Remember to discuss word meanings all along the way!



Word Chaining Example

original word	m	u	d
substitution	m	u	g
substitution	p	u	g
substitution	p	u	n

5 Word Chains with Short 'u'

Short 'u' only	Short 'u' and Short 'e'
mud	nut
mug	net
pug	bet
pun	but
run	hut
sun	hug
bun	bug
bug	beg
hug	leg
lug	lug
	tug
	tub
VOCABULARY NOTE: pug: A <i>pug</i> is a type of small dog. (Show a picture if available.) lug: <i>Lug</i> means to carry or drag something heavy. You <i>lug</i> a suitcase up the stairs.	VOCABULARY NOTE: beg: To <i>beg</i> is to ask for something. I <i>beg</i> my mom to let me play outside.

5 Word Chains with Short 'u'

Short 'u' and Short 'a'	Short 'u' and Short 'i'
cup	big
cut	bug
cat	bun
hat	fun
hut	fin
nut	fig
but	rig
bat	rug
bag	rub
rag	rib
rug	rim
rub	him
tub	hum
tab	
<p>VOCABULARY NOTE:</p> <p>rag: A <i>rag</i> is a torn piece of cloth. I use a <i>rag</i> or small towel to wipe the table clean.</p>	<p>VOCABULARY NOTE:</p> <p>rim: The <i>rim</i> is the outer part of a circular object. When you drink out of a plastic water bottle, you put your mouth on the <i>rim</i>. When I mix the cake batter, I hold on to the <i>rim</i> of the bowl.</p> <p>fig: A <i>fig</i> is a type of fruit that grows on a tree. Have you ever had a <i>Fig</i> Newton cookie? They're made of <i>figs</i>!</p>

5 Word Chains with Short 'u'

Short 'u' and Short 'o'

rub

rob

sob

sub

tub

tug

lug

log

lot

not

nut

hut

hot

hog

hug

VOCABULARY NOTE:

rob: *Rob* means to steal something.

tug: To *tug* is to pull or yank on something. He *tugged* his sister's ponytail.

hog: To *hog* is to take a lot of something and not to share. My sister *hogged* the bowl of popcorn. *Hog* is also another name for a pig!



a

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