
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Fun with Letter Sounds

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Objectives

- To help students recognize sounds within a text
- To help students make sentences with the sound

Level: Grades 2 to 4

Materials: Short and simple English texts of different kinds (Stories/poems/sentences) written in a large and clear font, chart papers for writing the text, paper slips (around 30-35 for a class of 30 students), coloured pens, little stick-on slips

Time: 45-50 minutes

Procedure

Before the Game Begins

The teacher will write a short text of about 60-80 words on a large chart paper. The font should be large and clear. Alternatively, readymade charts with story/poem texts can also be used.

They will place the text on a wall where it is clearly visible and accessible to all the students in the class.

The Game Begins

- The teacher will read the text aloud from the chart paper keeping a finger below the words while reading to connect the written and the spoken words.
- The teacher and students will discuss the text. Students will share their understanding, ideas and previous experiences related to the text. For instance, if the text is about animals, the teacher can ask

questions about students' previous encounters with animals.

- The teacher will then hide the text and ask students to recall some of the words from the text.
- The teacher will ask students to recall words with a particular sound, say /k/. The text should include at least 10-15 words of the sound the teacher wishes to use. These words can belong to any grammatical category. Notice that different letters may represent the same /k/ sound.
- The teacher will show the text to students and mark the words of the /k/ sound in the story using little removable stickers (so that the chart can be reused). The teacher will also mark the words missed by the students if any.
- The teacher will write the /k/ sound words from the story on paper slips using coloured pens.
- Each student will get one paper slip (with a /K/ word)
- The teacher asks students to pair themselves.
- Each pair will frame a sentence using the two words on their respective paper slips and tell the whole class.
- The teacher will ask students to write their sentences on the board. S/he can help them if they get stuck in writing.

Variation According to Grade: The game can be varied slightly according to students' grades. A few suggestions are mentioned below:

- Students in grades 3 and 4 can frame a brief story using 4-5 words
- The length of the text may vary according to the grade. For higher grades, a longer text can be taken up.
- Mixed sounds like /sh/ and /ch/ can be taken up in grades 3 and 4.

Mehak Gupta is a graduate in Elementary Education from the University of Delhi. Presently, she teaches English to primary graders at a private school in Delhi.

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