

Fundations Unit 8: Blends

Dear Families,

In Unit 8, students will be introduced to **consonant blends**. A **blend** is two consonants together that each make a sound. For example, in the word “s t o p” the /s/ and the /t/ each make a sound.

A blend is different than a **digraph**, which has two letters but only one sound. In the word “shop” – the /sh/ makes only one sound.

Blends can come at the beginning of a word, such as “s t o p”, or at the end of a word, like “p e s t”. Words in this unit that have blends will have four sounds and will require four taps. Remember, in a blend, each sound gets a separate tap.

Digraph blends will also be taught. A digraph blend is a digraph blended with another consonant such as n and ch in the word “l u n ch” or sh and r in the word “sh r e d”. Words in this unit with digraph blends will also have four sounds.

We will continue to practice adding the suffix -s onto the end of words to make them plural, such as “flips” and “shreds”.

Sample words:

s e n t m u s t p o n d d r u m c r i b s t e p
t h u m p s t a s h b e n c h s h r u b s s t e p s g r i p s

*Blends are marked with a line under each consonant.

*Digraphs are marked with one line under the two consonants.

*Digraph blends have a line under the consonant and one line under the digraph.

*Be careful of tr and dr blends, as in trip and drop. Students often think tr is spelled “chr” and dr is spelled “jr”.

The Homework Guide will help reinforce our new phonics concepts at home. Used the lined paper included to complete the dictation for Week 1 and Week 2. You may also help your child to complete the “Match Blend Search” and the “Blend and Digraph Blend Detective” activities. Be sure to make time to practice the new trick words! As always, feel free to ask if you have any questions!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Pelkey





Homework Guide

Review **consonant blends** with your child during the next 2 weeks.

Follow These 4 Steps:

1. Dictate the word and have your child echo the word.
2. Have your child tap out the sounds. This is extremely important. Each sound must be tapped on a

different finger. The word **“stop”** will have four taps. Do not tap trick words (in bold).

3. Have your child tell you the letters that go with those sounds.
4. Have your child write the letters. Remember, it is helpful if you say the letters as your child writes.

WEEK 1

Dictate the words and sentence to your child following the 4 steps listed above.

On Monday Dictate	Review Words →	sock	jam	which
On Tuesday Dictate	Current Words →	flip	camp	test
On Wednesday Dictate	Trick Words →	would	could	should
On Thursday Dictate	Sentence →	Could Beth mend the rip in the dress?		

WEEK 2

Dictate the words and sentence to your child following the 4 steps listed above.

On Monday Dictate	Review Words →	just	grass	swim
On Tuesday Dictate	Current Words →	clams	bench	shrubs
On Wednesday Dictate	Trick Words →	over	her	number
On Thursday Dictate	Sentence →	Bill went over to the ranch.		



Do the "Match Blend Search" Activity

Have your child match a **word beginning** with a **word ending** to make a word. Have him or her write all the words on a separate sheet of paper and then read the words.

Word Beginnings

br

sk

sm

sn

sp

Word Endings

it

all

ip

ap

ing



Do the “Blend and Digraph Blend Detective” Activity

Have your child read the words. Underline the blends and digraph blends with two separate lines. Example: **b** | **u** **sh**, **sh** | **r** **e** **d**

glad

grin

plug

trot

grab

shred

twig

bench

squish

chomp

flip

punch

munch

cross

self

The words **flip** and **shred** are Word of the Day words that were discussed in class and entered into your child’s Student Notebook. Ask your child to use the words in sentences to demonstrate meaning.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Grid for Word and Sentence Homework

Review Words

1 2

3

Handwriting practice lines for Review Words. Each row consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. The number '1' is written on the first row, '2' on the second, and '3' on the third. Each row is decorated with a sun icon at the top left, a cloud icon at the top right, a bird icon on the middle line, a flower icon on the bottom line, and a frog icon at the bottom right.

Current Words

1 2

Handwriting practice lines for Current Words. Each row consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. The number '1' is written on the first row and '2' on the second. Each row is decorated with a sun icon at the top left, a cloud icon at the top right, a bird icon on the middle line, a flower icon on the bottom line, and a frog icon at the bottom right.

Trick Words

3 1

2 3

Handwriting practice lines for Trick Words. Each row consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. The numbers '3' and '1' are written on the first row, and '2' and '3' on the second. Each row is decorated with a sun icon at the top left, a cloud icon at the top right, a bird icon on the middle line, a flower icon on the bottom line, and a frog icon at the bottom right.

Sentence

1

Handwriting practice lines for Sentence. Each row consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. The number '1' is written on the first row. Each row is decorated with a sun icon at the top left, a cloud icon at the top right, a bird icon on the middle line, a flower icon on the bottom line, and a frog icon at the bottom right.



Name: _____



Date: _____

Writing Grid for Word and Sentence Homework

Review Words



 _____ 

 _____ 

 1 _____ 2 _____ 

 _____ 

 _____ 

 _____ 



 3 _____ 

 _____ 

Current Words

 _____ 



 _____ 

 1 _____ 2 _____ 

 _____ 

Trick Words



 _____ 


 _____ 

 3 _____ 1 _____ 

 _____ 

 _____ 

 _____ 

 2 _____ 3 _____ 

 _____ 

Sentence

 _____ 

 _____ 

 1 _____ 

 _____ 

 _____ 

 _____ 

 _____ 

 _____ 

Fundations® Trick Words

WEEK 1

should

could

would

WEEK 2

her

over

number

→ **Cut words into flashcards.** 1. Each night, help your child **read** all Trick Words from previous units, as well as these. 2. Have your child **trace** each new Trick Word with his or her finger and **spell** it aloud; and 3. Cover up the Trick Word and have your child **write** it with his or her finger on the table while naming each letter.