



BLEND & DIGRAPH SORTS

PRODUCT CODE: **140**

PRODUCT CONTENTS

8 cover-weight sheets of color pictures
1 sheet of coordinating letter cards
5 pages of teacher information

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

All sets or cards in Reading Manipulatives products are different. Once students are introduced to the skills and shown how to do the activity, they work independently. The individualized materials can be used for seatwork or stations. Students work on needed skills, and teachers are freed for instruction.

This guide includes a brief summary of the skills that are targeted by this product. For many skills, additional teaching aids can be downloaded from the resource section of our web site (www.readingmanipulatives.com).

ASSEMBLY & PACKAGING

Reading Manipulatives materials are commercially laminated but must be cut and packaged prior to use. Preparation tips are given, and coding of the sets is explained.

Store the student sets in zipper bags. Small food storage bags from the grocery store can be used. Heavier 4 mil zipper bags can be found online. Amazon often has 4 x 4, 4 x 6 or 5 x 8 bags, which are good sizes for the manipulatives.

STUDENT CHECKLISTS & RECORDKEEPING

Checklists for tracking the materials that have been completed are important for recordkeeping. The last page of this guide is a master for a student checklist that can be copied and cut.

Active involvement builds accountability. When feasible, products have answer keys. Primary materials that necessitate teacher checking do not take much time to look over. Additionally, manipulatives encourage cooperative learning, and students naturally assist one another as a need arises.

COPYRIGHT © READING MANIPULATIVES

All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. No part of these materials may be used or reproduced in any form or by any means, or stored in a retrieval system, without prior written permission of the publisher. Making copies of any part of these materials for any purpose other than your personal use is a violation of United States copyright laws.

CONSONANT BLENDS & DIGRAPHS

Phonemes are the sounds of spoken language, and English is comprised of about 41 of them. Before children can learn to read, they must demonstrate phonemic awareness, the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate the phonemes in spoken words. Some competencies exhibited by children having phonemic awareness are:

- pronouncing phonemes in isolation (/m/ /r/ /s/);
- blending phonemes to form words (/d/ /o/ /g/ *dog*);
- identifying words that begin with the same sound (*fish, fan, fire* start with /f/); and
- segmenting the first and last sounds of a word (*bat* starts with /b/ and ends with /t/).

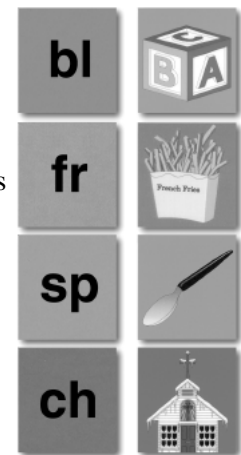
Consonant blends are formed when two to three phonemes are blended into a continuous sound. Students must have phonemic awareness and know the single phoneme sounds before learning blends.

IDENTIFYING CONSONANT BLENDS & DIGRAPHS

Consonant blends, particularly three-letter blends, are difficult for many students to discriminate and identify. Digraphs are single phonemes, yet they are challenging and are included in this product.

In this product, students identify blends and digraphs at the beginning of words (onsets). This segmentation activity covers all initial digraphs and blends. Students should then be able to look at the letters that form blends and say them correctly.

Students must use vocabulary knowledge to name words that begin with the blend or digraph choices. In order to provide adequate examples, some challenging words have been included. Therefore, this task may lead to acquisition of new vocabulary words.



CONSONANT BLEND GROUPINGS

Onset consonant blends can be broken into the following categories: L-blends, R-blends, and S-blends (blends that begin with s- and end with -r or -l appear in two categories):

L-BLENDS: bl, cl, fl, gl, pl, sl, spl

R-BLENDS: br, cr, dr, fr, gr, pr, tr, scr, shr, spr, str, thr

S-BLENDS: sc, sk, sl, sm, sn, sp, st, sw, scr, spl, spr, squ, str

Some students find it especially challenging to hear, read, and spell blends. Working on blending according to the above categories helps them to overcome this obstacle. Three-letter blends are particularly troublesome, so some of these are included. Most students improve their spelling of words containing blends after using these manipulatives.

Blends are also found at the end of words or syllables. The following are final blends:

FINAL BLENDS: ld, lk, mp, nd, nk, nt, rd, rf, rk, rp, sk, sp, st

BLENDING ONSETS TO BASES

The next step after students can recognize blends is to actually get them blending onsets to bases (rimes). Intermediate Blending, another Reading Manipulatives product, drills this critical skill in an open-ended manner. As in this product, the 20 sets are grouped by digraphs, L-blends, R-blends, and S-blends. Each set has 4 to 7 beginning sounds and 32 to 35 bases that follow the short/long vowel patterns or contain variant vowel phonemes (underlined to signal their occurrence). The final set in each group contains 3-letter blends.

*	ch	oke	*
*	sh	ell	*
*	th	<u>ir</u> d	*
*	wh	en	*

PREPARING, MANAGING & USING MATERIALS

CUTTING & PACKAGING

A rotary trimmer is ideal for cutting laminated materials. A paper cutter will suffice, but rotary trimmers are more accurate and easier to use. If your school does not have one, rotary trimmers can be purchased at art and office supply stores or at discount warehouse clubs. Copy centers often have a rotary trimmer available for customer use.

Use a trimmer to cut the sheets of pictures and onsets into strips. Then use sharp scissors to cut them apart. Sets in this product are coded by background color.

When preparing sorts, place the blend or digraph cards for each color in a zipper bag along with the coordinating pictures. Small food storage bags from the grocery store can be used. Heavier 4 mil zipper bags can be found online. 4 x 4 or 4 x 6 bags are good sizes for the manipulatives.



CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION & CHECKLIST

Select storage containers that hold and display the sets most efficiently. Those that offer high visibility speed the selection process. Many types and sizes of plastic storage boxes are available. Look at standard storage tubs, as well as containers for food or office supplies.

Students will be choosing sets so classroom organization is important. If using multiple sets, place them in various locations. That way, students will not have to congregate in a single area.

Make copies of the checklist that follows. Every Reading Manipulatives product contains unique, individualized activities. Students (or teachers) use the checklists to record work and to select sets or cards that have not yet done. Since the manipulatives and cards are part of a comprehensive instructional program, it is imperative to track completed materials.

Consider using student language arts folders as an organizational tool. Checklists can be glued to the inside folder, rather than leaving them loose. That way, they are easy to get at and unlikely to be lost. Students will have multiple checklists in their folders, one for each series of manipulatives or skills cards that they are using. They can also place any written work in their folders.

BLEND & DIGRAPH SORTS

Materials include 2 sheets of 30 pictures for each blend group (L-blends, R-blends, S-blends) and 2 for the digraphs. There is a page of sound cards. The background colors (gold, blue, red, yellow, orange, green, pink, purple) indicate which set the sound cards belong in. The joker cards on the digraph pages are fillers and included in case you want to use the pictures for other activities.

Students put the sort header cards at the top. Then they must segment the blend or digraph from each word and place the picture in the correct column.

A worthwhile by-product of the picture naming is vocabulary development. Direct students to set aside the picture cards they are unsure of. Then use them as a teaching opportunity. Rather than simply giving a student the name, offer clues and discuss the word. This may help the student to add the new word to her/his vocabulary.

These sort activities can be checked rapidly. Once a student is done, someone should check the work and record it. Students can repeat these sets as they improve their skills.

BLEND & DIGRAPH SORTS CONTENTS

L-BLENDS (gold)

blade	club	plant
blanket	flake	play
blast	flamingo	plow
blimp	flash	plug
blood	flea	plum
clam	flower	sled
class	flute	sleep
climb	glasses	slice
clipboard	glider	slide
cloud	gloves	sloth

L-BLENDS (blue)

blender	clown	plane
blind	flag	plate
block	flames	pledge
blouse	flashlight	pliers
blow	floss	plunger
blue jay	fly	sledge ham.
clamp	glass	sleigh
claw	globe	sling
clip	glove	slippers
clock	glue	slot machine

R-BLENDS (red)

brace	draw	grill
brain	drawer	pretzel
bread	drill	prize
bride	drum	projector
broom	frame	propeller
crane	fries	tracks
crawl	Frisbee	tractor
crocodile	grapes	trash
cross	grass	tray
dragon	greyhound	trophy

R-BLENDS (yellow)

break	dresses	greenhouse
brick	drink	groundhog
briefcase	dropper	present
broccoli	Frankenstein	printer
brush	friend(s)	projector
crab	frog	trailer
crayon	fruit	train
crown	graduate	trap
crutches	grasshopper	tree
dresser	grater	truck

S-BLENDS (orange)

scarecrow	snowmobile	stamp
scorpion	snowman	star
shrimp	spatula	statue
shredder	speakers	stool
skateboard(er)	spear	stork
ski(er)	spider	swan
skull	spill	swatter
snail	spray	swim
snake	spring	swing
snorkel	sprinkler	switch

S-BLENDS (green)

scale	spaghetti	starfish
scarf	speech	steeple
scuba	spin	stegosaurus
skate(r)	spine	stethoscope
skeleton	spoon	stocking
skunk	square	strainer
smash	squash	strawberries
smile	squid	stretcher
smoke	squirrel	string
smoke detector	stapler	strong

DIGRAPHS (pink)

chart	shake	thorn
check	shamrock	thumb
cherries	sharpener	whale
cheese	shears	wheelchair
chicken	sheep	whip
children	ship	whisker(s)
chili	shirt	whistle
chimney	Thanksgiving	
chop	thermometer	3
shade	thief	JOKERS

DIGRAPHS (purple)

chain	shelf	thumbtack
chair	shell	thunder
chalk	shoe	whale
check	shorts	wheelbarrow
cheetah	shovel	whisk
chipmunk	shower	whisker(s)
chips	shutters	whisper
chisel	thermometer	
church	thermos	3
shark	third	JOKERS

BLEND & DIGRAPH SORTS

L-blends (gold) _____ S-blends (orange) _____

L-blends (blue) _____ S-blends (green) _____

R-blends (red) _____ Digraphs (pink) _____

R-blends (yellow) _____ Digraphs (purple) _____

BLEND & DIGRAPH SORTS

L-blends (gold) _____ S-blends (orange) _____

L-blends (blue) _____ S-blends (green) _____

R-blends (red) _____ Digraphs (pink) _____

R-blends (yellow) _____ Digraphs (purple) _____

BLEND & DIGRAPH SORTS

L-blends (gold) _____ S-blends (orange) _____

L-blends (blue) _____ S-blends (green) _____

R-blends (red) _____ Digraphs (pink) _____

R-blends (yellow) _____ Digraphs (purple) _____

BLEND & DIGRAPH SORTS

L-blends (gold) _____ S-blends (orange) _____

L-blends (blue) _____ S-blends (green) _____

R-blends (red) _____ Digraphs (pink) _____

R-blends (yellow) _____ Digraphs (purple) _____

BLEND & DIGRAPH SORTS

L-blends (gold) _____ S-blends (orange) _____

L-blends (blue) _____ S-blends (green) _____

R-blends (red) _____ Digraphs (pink) _____

R-blends (yellow) _____ Digraphs (purple) _____

BLEND & DIGRAPH SORTS

L-blends (gold) _____ S-blends (orange) _____

L-blends (blue) _____ S-blends (green) _____

R-blends (red) _____ Digraphs (pink) _____

R-blends (yellow) _____ Digraphs (purple) _____