

Teacher Tip Sheet for Teaching Blends and Digraphs

Things to keep in mind about consonant digraphs:

this thud

- Th can make a voiced (**then**) or an unvoiced sound (**think**)

whale

- Wh has changed over time as the English language has changed. Some people still pronounce it /wh/ but nowadays most people pronounce it /w/.

itch

- Tch is a trigraph, three letters that make one sound.

sing sang song sung

- Ng is taught different ways in different programs. We teach it as a digraph as the two letters make one glued sound, the n and g don't retain their respective pronunciations. Students may need practice with the rime units in -ng words, ing, ang, ong and ung, as it can be very difficult for some people to produce the -ng sound or blend it with the vowel sound.

Things to keep in mind about blends:

pink lamp felt went

- Some ending blends like -nk, -lt, -mp, and -nt are especially tricky as they are difficult for some students to pronounce. Students may need practice with the rime units in -nk words -ink, -ank, -onk and -unk.

scrap strip split squish

- Tri-blends include scr- str- spl- and squ-. These can be tricky for students, and some may need extra practice.

quit

- In words of English origin, q does not have a sound by itself but only appears as "qu" pronounced /kw/, a blend of /k/ and /w/