

Here's some information to aid in phonics/spelling at beginning learning levels:

Consonants are speech sounds. They are said with (some) “vocal tract constriction” or “closure” of the lips, tongue, etc. (For *vowels*, the air flows freely because no mouth parts touch.)

In American-dictionary phonetic [symbols] that look like letters, 22 consonant *sounds* are:

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |      |     |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| [b] | [p] | [d] | [t] | [g] | [k] | [v] | [f] | [th] | [z] | [s] | [sh] | [j] | [ch] | [m] | [n] | [ng] | [r] | [l] | [w] | [y] | [h] |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

(Some *International Phonetic Alphabet / IPA/* consonant sound-symbols look different from letters.)

|     |     |     |     |      |      |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|
| [ð] | [θ] | [ʒ] | [ʃ] | [dʒ] | [tʃ] | [ŋ] |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|

The 21 *consonant letters* in the English alphabet are all its “characters” *except a, e, i, o, and u*:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| b | c | d | f | g | h | j | k | l | m | n | p | q | r | s | t | v | w | x | y | z |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

The 17 consonant letters *b-, d-, f-, h-, j-, k-, l-, m-, n-, p-, r-, s-, t-, v-, w-, y-, and z-* usually stand for *the same sounds* at the beginning of syllables before vowels: [ b d f h j = /dʒ/ k l m n p r s t v w y z ]. The letters *c-* and *g-* produce the [k] and [g] sounds much more often than [s] and [j] = /dʒ/, so only the former letter-sound correspondences are included at beginning levels. The infrequent letter *q-* [k] does not appear, either.

The letters *-b, -d, -f, -g, -k, -l, -m, -n, -p, -r, -s, -t, -v, -x,* and *-z* most often make the [ b d f g k l m n p r s t v ks z ] sounds at the ends of words after vowels.

At beginning levels, phonics/spelling puzzle vocabulary words contain *only the most regular spellings* for targeted sounds. Therefore, alternative spellings like *c-* [s] and *g-* [j] in initial word position; unusual letter combinations like *wh-* or *ph-*; infrequent sounds like [ð] = /ð/ or [dʒ] = /dʒ/; and doubled consonants like *-dd* [d] at word end are rarely included. Also, consonant combinations with “silent letters” (not pronounced) are too rare for beginning-level consideration.

However, final consonant-sound spellings like *-ce, -ck, -tch, -(d)ge, -ll, -ss, -ve,* and *-zz* are common, so they appear in some beginning-level vocabulary words. The letter *-j* ends no words, *h* is silent after vowels, and *w* and *y* in final word position are part of *vowel spellings*.

A *digraph* is two letters for one sound. The two consonant letters of the pairs *sh* and *th* together produce the sounds [sh] = /ʃ/ and [th] = /θ/; *-ng* spells [ng] = /ŋ/ at word end only.

The letter combination *-ch* stands for the two sounds [ch] = /tʃ/.

Most consonant letters can combine in consonant *clusters* at the beginning or end of words: these two or three sounds are *blended* in pronunciation without vowel sounds between them. Only the relatively common clusters—like *br-, fl-, pr-, sc-, sm-, spr-,* or *tr-* and *-ld, -lt, -mp, -nch, -nk, -nt, -rd, -rk,* or *-st*—are included in beginning-level consonant puzzles.

One-syllable beginning-level words contain “simple” or “complex” vowel sounds with regular spellings only. The most common word pattern is CVC = Consonant(s) Vowel Consonant(s).



# Consonant Sounds & Letters

# Everything to Know (Now)

Here are charts of common, regular spellings for 22 English consonant sounds in initial and final word positions. Only a few less common—and no exceptional—spellings for the given sounds are included at this beginning level.

For reference, copies of the charts are on most phonicspelling puzzle pages.

The sounds represented by the letters in spelling appear in phonetic *IPA* sound symbols between lines / / after =.

When these differ from alphabet letters, American dictionary symbols between brackets [ ] follow.

With relevant letters underlined, common word examples for the spellings = /sounds/ are in gray boxes. They may be useful for pronunciation practice.

All spellings = /sounds/ appear in the puzzles, word-reference lists, and answer keys.

## Initial Consonants Letter = /Sound(s)/

b = /b/  
c = /k/  
d = /d/  
f = /f/  
g = /g/  
h = /h/  
j = /dʒ/ [j]  
k = /k/  
l = /l/  
m = /m/  
n = /n/  
p = /p/  
r = /r/  
s = /s/  
t = /t/  
w = /w/  
y = /y/  
z = /z/

### INITIAL CONSONANTS:

boy, brain, cat,  
click, crash, dog,  
draw, fish, fly, get,  
green, home, jet,  
kill, law, man, new,  
pop, play, print,  
room, sad, scare,  
skill, slow, small,  
snake, spring, start,  
street, trip, twice,  
ten, way, year, zone

## Final Consonants Letter(s) = /Sound(s)/

b = /b/  
ce = /s/  
d = /d/  
f = /f/  
g = /g/  
(d)ge = /dʒ/ [j]  
(c)k = /k/  
l(l) = /l/  
m = /m/  
n = /n/  
p = /p/  
r = /r/  
s(s) = /s/  
t = /t/  
th = /θ/ [th]  
ve = /v/  
x = /ks/  
z(z) = /z/

### FINAL CONSONANTS:

tub, nice, rich,  
match, sick, did,  
leaf, rag, fudge/page,  
sack/bike, bowl/tell,  
hold, salt, lamp,  
time, can, lunch,  
send, sing, sink, ant,  
zip, car, march, hard,  
work, girl, turn,  
sharp, hurt, us/pass,  
wish, disk, crisp,  
past, but, with, give,  
box, maze/jazz

## Consonant Pairs = /Sound(s)/

(-t)ch = /tʃ/[ch]  
-ck = /k/  
-ng = /ŋ/[ng]  
sh = /ʃ/[sh]  
th = /θ/[th]

## Initial Consonant Blends/Clusters

bl- br- cl-  
cr- dr- fl-  
gr- pl- pr-  
scr- sk- sl-  
sm- sn- sp-  
scr- spr- st-  
str- tr- tw-

## Final Consonant Blends/Clusters

-ld -lp -lt  
-mp -nch -nd  
-nk -nt -rch  
-rd -rk -rl  
-rm -rn -rp  
-rt -sp -st

## Added Endings

-d = /d t/  
-s = /z s/

# Initial Consonants

# Beginning

# Word Find

INSTRUCTIONS

➤ In the Word-Find Puzzle, circle the words for the 18 pictures. Read the letters of 9 words from left to right and of 9 from top to bottom. Print their first consonants on the lines under the pictures.

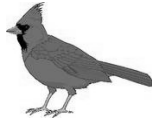






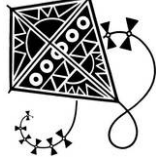
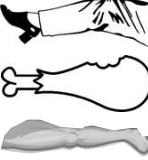
➤ Cover the words. Tell the item names and their first letters.







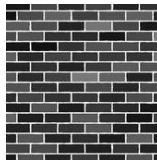


|    |    |   |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |
|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| #  | \$ | % | (  | t  | * | J  | b  | i  | r  | d  | V |
| ●  | d  | i | g  | ❄️ | j | a  | r  | ☀️ | ☁️ | ⚡  | m |
| p  | ★  | 😊 | Ω  | ♋  | ⚡ | ♁  | n  | ☪️ | ♈  | o  |   |
| u  | 🍰  | f | e  | e  | d | 🍦  | 🧀  | u  | 🍌  | z  | m |
| s  | ☕  | 🍲 | 🍷  | 🍔  | 🍷 | 🍕  | 🍪  | t  | 🍩  | o  | 🍷 |
| h  | ♠️ | s | ♦️ | h  | o | l  | e  | s  | ♣️ | o  | r |
| ♥️ | ⑧  | o | g  | 🌸  | ⑩ | ♠️ | 📎  | y  | ⑤  | m  | o |
| 📶  | w  | i | l  | e  | g | s  | ☠️ | a  | t  | ✳️ | u |
| ☀️ | a  | l | k  | i  | t | e  | 🦅  | w  | i  | n  | d |
| ⬅️ | l  | k | i  | t  | e | n  | m  | 🐜  | d  |    |   |
| 🧑  | l  | 👄 | 🎱  | 📄  | 🦅 | 🏠  | ⚖️ | e  | f  | 🐍  |   |
| c  | a  | t | 🎵  | ⚽  | 🏆 | g  | a  | m  | e  | 🦷  |   |

## Initial Consonants Letter = /Sound(s)/

- b = /b/
- c = /k/
- d = /d/
- f = /f/
- g = /g/
- h = /h/
- j = /dʒ/ [j]
- k = /k/
- l = /l/
- m = /m/
- n = /n/
- p = /p/
- r = /r/
- s = /s/
- t = /t/
- w = /w/
- y = /y/
- z = /z/

ACROSS ➡

|  |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| __ird  | __at  | d ig  | __eed   | __ame   | __ole  | __ar  | __ite   | __egs   |

|   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| __om  | __uts   | __ush   | __ound  | __oil   | __ime  | w all   | __awn   | __oom   |



## INSTRUCTIONS

➔ In the Criss-Cross Puzzle Frame, put the missing initial consonant letters in the empty boxes. (Look at the word list to the right.)

➔ Read the 10 ACROSS words from left to right. Read the 10 DOWN words from top to bottom. Find their numbered pictures below.

➔ Copy their first letters under their pictures. Cover the pictures and say the vocabulary words. Emphasize the initial consonant sounds.

## Initial Consonants







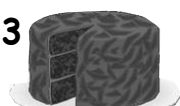
Letter = /Sound(s)/

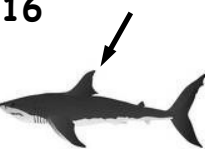

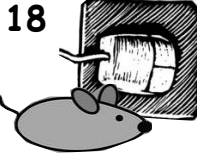



- b = /b/
- c = /k/
- d = /d/
- f = /f/
- g = /g/
- h = /h/
- j = /dʒ/ [j]
- k = /k/
- l = /l/
- m = /m/
- n = /n/
- p = /p/
- r = /r/
- s = /s/
- t = /t/
- w = /w/
- y = /y/
- z = /z/



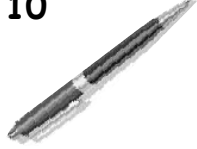

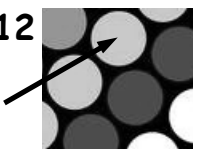


|    |    |   |    |    |   |    |   |    |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |    |  |  |  |  |
|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|--|--|--|--|
| 1  | h  | u | 2  | g  |   | 3  |   | o  | 4 |   |    |   |   |   |   |    |  |  |  |  |
|    |    |   |    | u  |   |    | e |    |   | e |    |   |   |   |   |    |  |  |  |  |
| 5  |    | a | m  |    |   |    | a |    | 6 |   | i  | 7 |   |   | e |    |  |  |  |  |
|    | e  |   |    |    |   |    | n |    |   |   |    |   |   |   | o |    |  |  |  |  |
| 8  |    | o | o  | 9  |   |    | s |    |   |   |    |   |   |   | o |    |  |  |  |  |
|    |    |   |    |    | e |    |   | 10 |   | a | 11 |   |   |   |   | 12 |  |  |  |  |
|    |    |   | 13 |    | a | 14 |   | e  |   |   |    | i |   |   |   | o  |  |  |  |  |
|    | 15 |   |    | 16 |   | i  | n |    |   |   | 17 |   | u | t |   |    |  |  |  |  |
|    |    | i |    |    |   |    | s |    |   |   |    | e |   |   |   |    |  |  |  |  |
| 18 |    | o | u  | s  | e |    |   |    |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |    |  |  |  |  |

- bans      leam
- boy      mouse
- cake      nut
- dot      paw
- fin      pen
- gum      rim
- hug      size
- jam      tools
- jet      wine
- kiss      yes
- zoo

**ACROSS** ➔

1  hug      3     oy      5     am      6     ize      8     ools      10     aw      13     ake

16     in      17     ut      18     ouse      **DOWN** 2  gum      4     eans      5     et

7     oo      9     eaf      10     en      11     ine      12     ot      14     iss      15     im



# Initial Consonants

# Beginning

# Linked Words

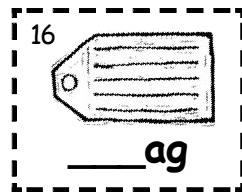
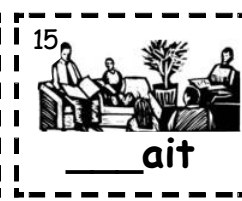
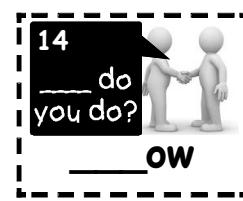
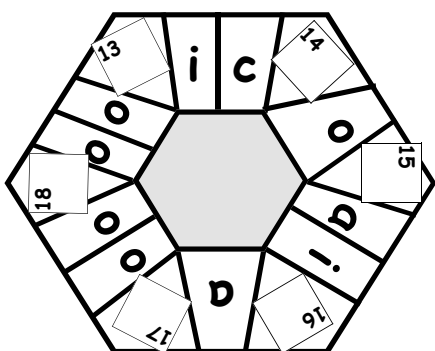
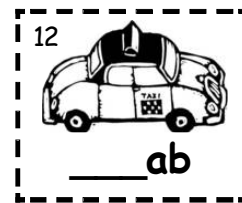
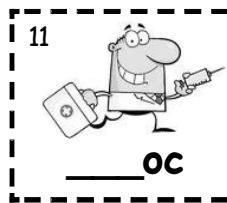
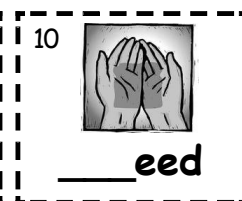
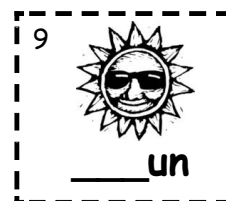
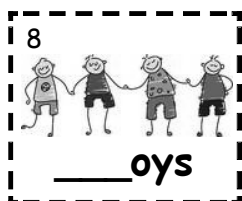
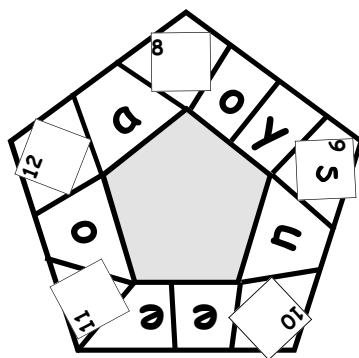
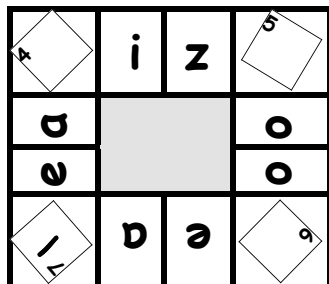
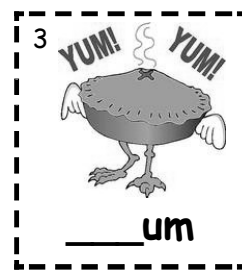
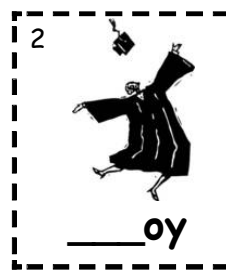
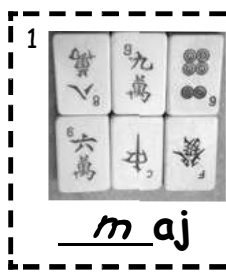
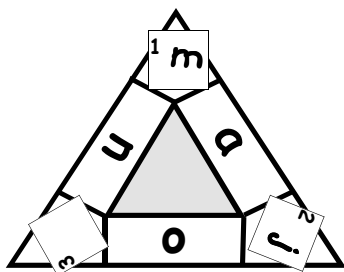
## INSTRUCTIONS

► In these three-, four-, five- and six-sided Letter-Chain Shapes, put the 18 initial consonants from the list in the empty boxes numbered 1-18. Use each letter once—facing inward. (The last letter of each word is the first letter of the next word.)

► Put the same missing letters on the lines in the words under the corresponding pictures 1-18. Read and check your answers.

## Initial Consonants Letter = /Sound(s)/

- b = /b/
- c = /k/
- d = /d/
- f = /f/
- g = /g/
- h = /h/
- j = /dʒ/ [j]
- k = /k/
- l = /l/
- m = /m/
- n = /n/
- p = /p/
- r = /r/
- s = /s/
- t = /t/
- w = /w/
- y = /y/
- z = /z/



► Can you pronounce, explain the meanings of, and/or use the 18 vocabulary words from the puzzles in phrases or sentences?



# Initial Consonants

# Beginning

# Letter Choices


## INSTRUCTIONS

- For each puzzle, choose from the 5 circled letters that begin words with the vowel(s) + consonant(s) ending in the black box. Copy the letters on the lines. Pronounce (and explain) the words.
- In mixed-up order, read each word of a puzzle aloud. Emphasize its first consonant sound. Others can make a sentence about its picture.


## Initial Consonants Letter = /Sound/

- b = /b/
- c = /k/
- d = /d/
- f = /f/
- g = /g/
- h = /h/
- j = /dʒ/ [j]
- k = /k/
- l = /l/
- m = /m/
- n = /n/
- p = /p/
- r = /r/
- s = /s/
- t = /t/
- w = /w/
- y = /y/
- z = /z/


**b c f h r + at =**



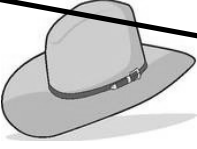
   at




   at



   at




   at




   at


**j s t w y + ell =**




   ell




   ell



   ell

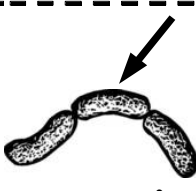


   ell




   ell


**k l p r z + ink/c =**




   ink




   ink



   ink




   ink




   inc

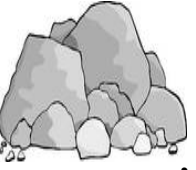
**d g m n t + ow/oun(d) =**




   own



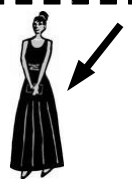
   oun



   ound



   own



   own

## Word List

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| <u>  </u> bat   | <u>  </u> noun |
| <u>  </u> cat   | <u>  </u> pink |
| <u>  </u> down  | <u>  </u> rat  |
| <u>  </u> fat   | <u>  </u> rink |
| <u>  </u> gown  | <u>  </u> sell |
| <u>  </u> hat   | <u>  </u> tell |
| <u>  </u> jell  | <u>  </u> town |
| <u>  </u> kink  | <u>  </u> well |
| <u>  </u> link  | <u>  </u> yell |
| <u>  </u> mound | <u>  </u> zinc |

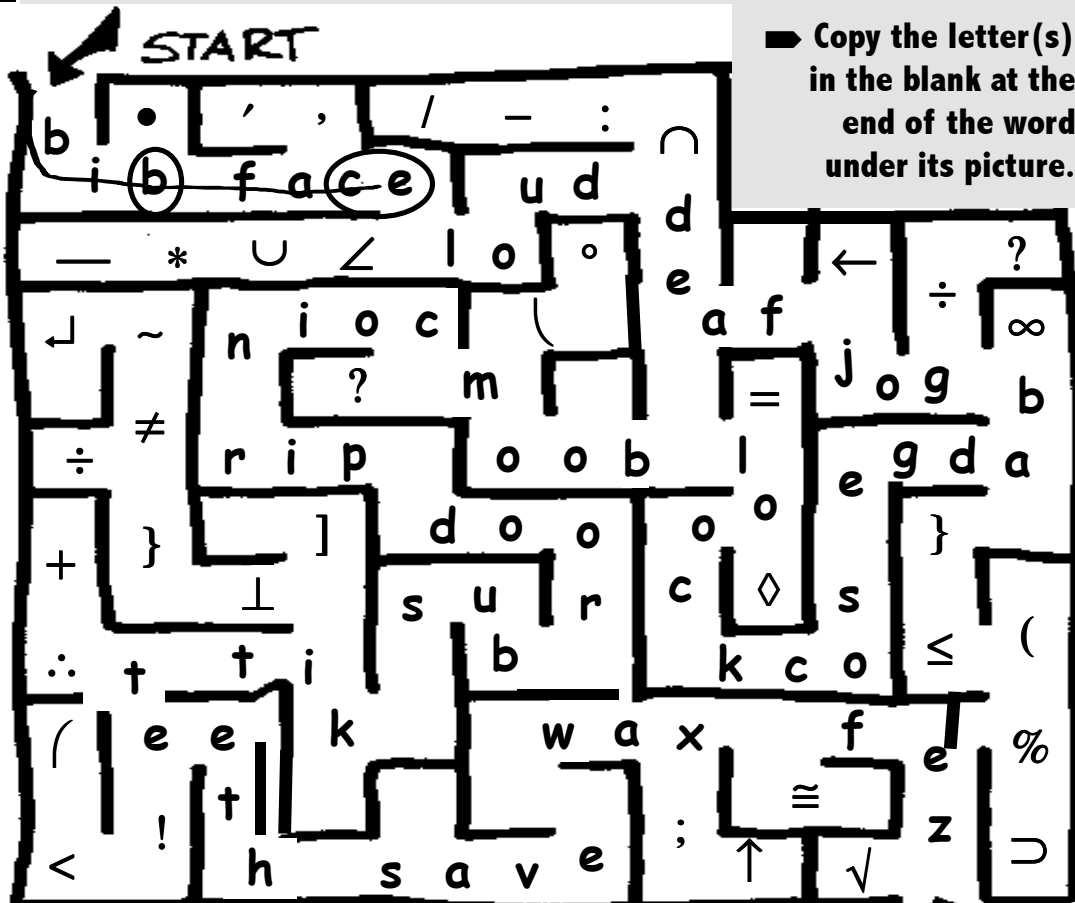
# Final Consonants

# Beginning

# Word Maze

INSTRUCTIONS

- In the Maze, draw a line from **START** to **FINISH**. Cross only the letters that spell words in order. (The letters of some words go backwards from right to left.) Read the words. Tell their meanings.
- Circle the letter(s) for the last consonant sound(s) of each word.



➤ Copy the letter(s) in the blank at the end of the word under its picture.

**Final Consonant Letter(s)**  
= /Sound(s)/

- b = /b/
- ce = /s/
- d = /d/
- f = /f/
- g = /g/
- (d)ge = /dʒ/ [j]
- (c)k = /k/
- l(l) = /l/
- m = /m/
- n = /n/
- p = /p/
- r = /r/
- s(s) = /s/
- t = /t/
- th = /θ/ [th]
- ve = /v/
- x = /ks/
- z(z) = /z/



bi \_\_\_\_\_



fa \_\_\_\_\_



lou \_\_\_\_\_



dea \_\_\_\_\_



jo g \_\_\_\_\_



ba \_\_\_\_\_



so \_\_\_\_\_



coo \_\_\_\_\_



boo \_\_\_\_\_



coi \_\_\_\_\_



ri \_\_\_\_\_

Use (some of) the 18 words in sentences!



doo \_\_\_\_\_



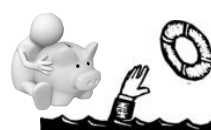
bu \_\_\_\_\_



ki \_\_\_\_\_



tee \_\_\_\_\_



sa \_\_\_\_\_



wa \_\_\_\_\_



fe \_\_\_\_\_





# Final Consonants


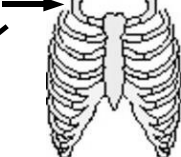






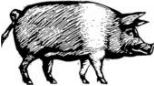






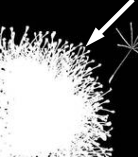








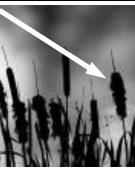








# Beginning

# Switched Letters

## INSTRUCTIONS

► The words for the 36 pictures all end in the wrong consonant letter(s). To switch the letter(s) in each pair, cross it or them out. In the box, put the correct letter(s) from the other word.

► Read the correct words aloud. Can you use them in sentences?

|   |                                 |   |   |                                 |   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---|
|     | <del>rib</del> <del>rip</del>   |    |    | <del>mob</del> <del>move</del>  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> p  | <input type="checkbox"/> b      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|     | <del>sad</del> <del>sat</del>   |    |    | <del>rage</del> <del>race</del> |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|    | <del>pig</del> <del>pick</del>  |    |    | <del>beef</del> <del>beep</del> |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|   | <del>save</del> <del>safe</del> |   |   | <del>book</del> <del>boot</del> |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|  | <del>fuzz</del> <del>fuss</del> |  |  | <del>tux</del> <del>tuck</del>  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|   | <del>mix</del> <del>mice</del>  |  |  | <del>dog</del> <del>dodge</del> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|   | <del>call</del> <del>car</del>  |  |  | <del>reed</del> <del>reel</del> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|   | <del>rum</del> <del>run</del>   |  |  | <del>pain</del> <del>pair</del> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|  | <del>bat</del> <del>bath</del>  |  |  | <del>gaze</del> <del>gas</del>  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |

## Final Consonant Letter(s) = /Sound(s)/

- b = /b/
- ce = /s/
- d = /d/
- f = /f/
- g = /g/
- (d)ge = /dʒ/ [j]
- (c)k = /k/
- l(l) = /l/
- m = /m/
- n = /n/
- p = /p/
- r = /r/
- s(s) = /s/
- t = /t/
- th = /θ/ [th]
- ve = /v/
- x = /ks/
- z(z) = /z/

### Word List

- |       |      |      |
|-------|------|------|
| bat   | gas  | reed |
| bath  | gaze | reel |
| beef  | mice | rib  |
| beep  | mix  | rip  |
| book  | mob  | rum  |
| boot  | move | run  |
| call  | pain | sad  |
| car   | pair | safe |
| dodge | pick | sat  |
| dog   | pig  | save |
| fuss  | race | tuck |
| fuzz  | rage | tux  |