

Phonics Strategy

Strategy: Bag of Tricks. The students will learn a complex onset-rime and practice reading and writing words with that onset-rime. The activity teaches students complex onset-rime patterns.

Appropriate Grade Level: K-2

Materials Needed:

- Cards with a complex rime pattern (e.g., -ight), one per student
- Cards with onsets that can be taped to the beginning of the chosen rime
- Paper bag labeled “onset”
- Writing notebooks/draft book and pens or pencils

Procedures/Steps:

1. Review the complex rime pattern the students will be practicing (e.g., -ight).
2. Have students sit in a circle. Pass out a rime card to each student.
3. Put the onsets in the bag, and place the bag in the middle of the circle within reach of everyone.
4. Explain to students that they will be combining an onset from the bag with their rime card. Tell them the words they create can be real or nonsense words.
5. Model how to play “Bag of Tricks”:
 - Draw one onset card out of the bag.
 - Combine it with your rime card.
 - Say the word.
 - Ask students if the word is real or nonsense.
 - If it is a real word, have them write the word in their writing notebooks.
6. Have students take turns drawing one onset from the bag, combining it with his or her rime card, and reading the word.
7. Have the students record the real words in their writing notebooks.
8. Continue this procedure with all of the onsets.
9. Review the real words the students have made.

Comments/Tips:

- For *English language learners* make sure the students understand the meanings of the words. Picture cards could be used to go along with the words if needed.

Source: Adapted from University of Texas Center for Reading and Language Arts. (2001). *Effective instruction for struggling readers: Research based practices*. Austin, TX: Texas Education Agency.