



Digraph Detectives: sh, ch, th, wh

LEARNING GOAL

Recognise common beginning digraphs and use them when reading and spelling simple words.

Study -> Practise -> Talk -> Make -> Reflect

Designed for short adult-supported sessions and independent return practice.

Purpose

Recognise common beginning digraphs and use them when reading and spelling simple words.

Suggested rhythm

Use 10-15 minutes. Model one example, let the child try, ask how they know, then stop while attention is still positive.

Feedback

Praise the strategy, careful observation or explanation. If an answer is wrong, ask the child to show their thinking before correcting it.

Transfer

Use the hands-on task before or after the printable page so the skill connects to real objects, talk and movement.

Safety & independence

Adult supervision is expected for cutting, small objects, outdoor exploration, water, torches or elastic bands. Adapt materials to the child.

Say the words, use them in conversation, then return to them during the activities.

Digraph

Use it in your own sentence or explanation.

Two Letters

Use it in your own sentence or explanation.

One Sound

Use it in your own sentence or explanation.

Beginning

Use it in your own sentence or explanation.

Word

Use it in your own sentence or explanation.

Talk prompt

Which of these words feels newest? Explain what you think it means and give an example connected to digraphs.

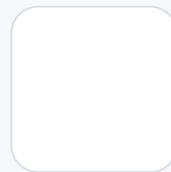
1

A digraph is two letters working together to represent one sound.

2

Listen first, then choose the spelling: ship begins with sh.

SHOW IT ANOTHER WAY



Say it, point to it, build it, read it, explain it.

Adult: model the first item. Child: explain what you notice or how you know.

1 Read: ship, shop, chin, chat, thin, thumb, whip, when.

2 Sort words under sh / ch / th / wh.

3 Complete: __ip, __at, __in, __en.

Work carefully. Draw, mark, build or write when that helps your thinking.

1 Read: ship, shop, chin, chat, thin, thumb, whip, when.

2 Sort words under sh / ch / th / wh.

3 Complete: __ip, __at, __in, __en.

4 Which two words begin with the same sound: shell, cheese, shoe?

5 Write a sentence using one digraph word.

SHOW YOUR THINKING

Work carefully. Draw, mark, build or write when that helps your thinking.

1 Complete: __ip, __at, __in, __en.

2 Which two words begin with the same sound: shell, cheese, shoe?

3 Write a sentence using one digraph word.

4 Read: ship, shop, chin, chat, thin, thumb, whip, when.

5 Sort words under sh / ch / th / wh.

SHOW YOUR THINKING

Talk 1 Which two words begin with the same sound: shell, cheese, shoe?

Talk 2 Write a sentence using one digraph word.

Talk 3 What strategy, clue or observation helped you most with digraphs?

Talk 4 What mistake might someone make here? How could you help them notice it?

A complete explanation is more valuable than a fast one-word answer.

DO SOMETHING REAL

Make four room signs: SH, CH, TH, WH. Say a word and walk to the sign that matches its first sound.

RECORD WHAT HAPPENED

What I did

What I noticed

What I would try next

CREATE CHALLENGE

Invent four silly creatures whose names begin with different digraphs. Label them.

Use this space to draw, label, plan or draft.

Independent challenge

ENGLISH & LITERACY

Try without help first. Then explain or check your work with a grown-up.

1 Which two words begin with the same sound: shell, cheese, shoe?

2 Write a sentence using one digraph word.

3 Create one new example that would help another Grade 1 learner practise digraphs.

MY CHECK

☐ I tried a strategy ☐ I checked it ☐ I can explain one idea

ANSWER / REVIEW NOTES

- shell and shoe begin with sh.
- Accept a sensible sentence with correct digraph spelling.

LEARNER REFLECTION

One thing I understand better now:

One thing I want to practise again:

One real-life example I can think of:

Review status: original BrightPencil draft. Educational and rights review required before public publication.