

Cluster Reduction Minimal Pairs

A two- or three-consonant blend gets squeezed down to a single consonant.

RESOLVES

Clusters without /s/ by 4;0

PAIRS

20

SOUNDS

All consonant blends

A blend asks a child to move from one consonant straight into another with no vowel to rest on. Early on, one of the two consonants wins and the other disappears. Which one survives is fairly predictable: in /s/ blends the /s/ usually goes ("spoon" becomes "soon"), and in liquid blends the /r/ or /l/ usually goes ("black" becomes "back").

Try this: Pull the blend apart and put it back together. Say the two sounds with a big gap - "sssss ... oon" - then shrink the gap a little each time until they collide. Children find this much easier than being told to "say it all together."

/bl/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

black

CHILD SAYS

> back

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/br/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

bread

CHILD SAYS

> bed

TARGET

brush

CHILD SAYS

> bush

/cr/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

crab

CHILD SAYS

> cab

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/cl/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

clap

CHILD SAYS

> cap

TARGET

clown

CHILD SAYS

> cown *

/dr/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

drive

CHILD SAYS

> dive

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/fr/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

frog

CHILD SAYS

> fog

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/fl/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

flower

CHILD SAYS

> fower *

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/pl/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

plug

CHILD SAYS

> pug

TARGET

plate

CHILD SAYS

> pate *

/tr/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

tree

CHILD SAYS

> tea

TARGET

train

CHILD SAYS

> tain *

/st/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

stop

CHILD SAYS

> top

TARGET

stir

CHILD SAYS

> tir *

/sn/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

snail

CHILD SAYS

> nail

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/sw/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

swing

CHILD SAYS

> wing

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/sl/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

sled

CHILD SAYS

> sed *

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/sp/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

spin

CHILD SAYS

> pin

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/sk/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

skate

CHILD SAYS

> Kate

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

* not a real word - written the way a child would say it