

Consonant Clusters

Consonant clusters are the given name to two or three consonants that appear together in a word. Each consonant retains its sound when blended. The term *cluster* refers to the written form and the term *blend* refers to the spoken form.

Consonant clusters consist of four major categories:

- ♥ r-blends
- ♥ s-blends
- ♥ l-blends
- ♥ 3 letter blends

You can teach beginning consonant clusters as soon as children have learnt the single consonant sound-spellings.

r-blends: br, cr, dr, fr, gr, pr, tr,

s-blends: sc, sk, sl, sm, sn, sp, st, sw,

l-blends: bl, cl, fl, gl, pl.

3 letter blends: str, spr, thr, chr, phr, shr. The consonant clusters thr, chr, phr, shr, are made up of a consonant digraph and a consonant.

Ending blends: ct, ft, ld, lp, lt, mp, nd, nk, nt, pt, rd, rk, sk, sp, st (teach these last)

Consonant Digraphs: consist of two consonants that when blended make one sound: sh, ch, th, wh, ph, gh, ng

Exceptions: The consonant blend *sc* can stand for the /sk/ sound as in *scare* or the /c/ can be silent as in *science*. Also, the consonant cluster *ck* represents one sound - /k/. Most other consonant clusters will almost always stand for the blended sound of each consonant, which makes them very reliable and worthy of teaching to your child.

Here are some consonant & digraph cluster flash cards for your own use.

Happy Teaching!

Jane Buckley – www.atozphonics.com

Beginning/middle consonant & digraph clusters:

br

cr

dr

fr

gr

pr

tr

sc

sk

sl

sm

sn

sp

st

sw

bl

cl

fl

gl

pl

str

spr

Digraph Consonant Cluster Flash Cards

www.atozphonics.com

thr

chr

phr

shr

sh

ch

th

wh

ph

gh

Ending Consonant Cluster Flash Cards

www.atozphonics.com

ct

ft

ld

lp

lt

mp

nd

nk

nt

pt

rd

rk

sk

sp

st

ng