



Phonemic Awareness: Sound Deletion

The purpose of this activity is for students to practice orally deleting the first sound in three-phoneme words.

Prepare

Locate matchbox cars or print out [car pictures](#) to use, one for you and one for each student.

Warm-Up



We are going to play a game called Drive Away! We will say a word and listen for the first sound in the word and take it away. Before we begin, let's practice listening for the first sound in some words.

What's the first sound in

- **fun?** Students should respond /f/.
- **ham?** Students should respond /h/.
- **pet?** Students should respond /p/.

Watch for students who have a difficult time giving you beginning sounds. Start with words that end with a continuous sound, and elongate the word, e.g., fffuuunnn, if they need additional support.

Modeling



I am going to say a word. After I say the word, I will identify the first sound and drive it away by moving my car and saying the sound.

1. **My word is *hop*.**
2. **I hear the first sound /h/ in *hop* and will drive the car away.** Drive the car away while saying the first sound and then say the remaining part.
3. **What do we have left?** Students should say *op*.

Let's try another word. Watch me.

1. **My word is *big*.**
2. **I hear the first sound /b/ in *big* and will drive the car away.** Drive the car away while saying the first sound and then say the remaining part.
3. **What do we have left?** Students should say *ig*.

Guided Practice



Pass out a car to each student. **Let's try one together. I will say the word, we will repeat the word, and then we will remove the first sound by driving the car away.**

Model for students.

1. **My word is *top*. What is my word?** Students should repeat the word *top*.
2. **Now, let's drive away the first sound, /t/.**
3. **What do we have left?** Students should say *op*.

If correct: /t/ is my first sound. "Top" without /t/ is "op." Good! You are ready to try with some new words.

If Incorrect: Let's try it together, slowly. I will say the word, we will repeat the word and remove or drive away the first sound.

1. My word is "top." What is my word? *Have students repeat "top" with you.*
2. Now, we will take the first sound away. What's the first sound in "top"? *Have students repeat /t/ with you.*
3. So "top" without /t/ is what sound? *See if students can say "op."*

Try to get a correct response before proceeding.

Practice



I'm going to say some more words. When I give you a word, you will repeat the word, identify the first sound, drive the first sound away, and tell me what part is left. You will use your car to help you remember which sound you are removing.

To increase student engagement, pose the question first, provide wait time, and then call on individually selected students or on the whole group.

Word Bank



Word	First sound	Word part remaining
cob	/k/	ob
bud	/b/	ud
fun	/f/	un
get	/g/	et
win	/w/	in
wig	/w/	ig

Word Bank *Continued*

Word	First sound	Word part remaining
cub	/k/	ub
duck	/d/	uck
zip	/z/	ip
run	/r/	un
pop	/p/	op
cab	/k/	ab
hot	/h/	ot
bug	/b/	ug
kid	/k/	id
bun	/b/	un
dip	/d/	ip
sum	/s/	um
kiss	/k/	iss
got	/g/	ot

Wrap-Up



You have been practicing how to find the first sound in a word, take that sound away, and then say what word part is left. Zoom, zoom!
You worked hard!

Cars

