

# Blast Off: Letter Sound Fluency

**Goal:** Given a printed letter, the student can say its sound with automaticity.

**In a Nutshell:** (5–8 minutes)

Each student says the letter sounds for a vertical list of letters, saying “Blast off!” after the last letter.

## MATERIALS



Watch with a second hand or timer.

- Board to write on.

## PREPARE

Write the letters vertically on the board in a random order so that there are 10 letters total. Use the following letters: *a, m, s, t, i, f, r*. (You can repeat letters, focus only on letters that students struggle with, and omit letters you think are too easy.)

## MODEL



1 These letters are written in a column like a rocket on a launch pad. Instead of counting numbers down to blast off, we are going to say letter sounds. The goal is to see how fast we can say the sounds.

I'm going to point to the letters as you say the sounds. When you get to the end, say “Blast off!” I will time you to see how fast you can say all the sounds. My turn first.

- 2 Going at a moderate speed, point to each letter in turn and say its sound. When you get to the bottom of the list, say “Blast off!”

## PRACTICE



3 Now it's your turn.

Call on a student to go first. Point to each letter as the student says the sound. Use a watch to time him or her and write the time on the board.

- 4 When each student has had a turn, repeat the process to see if students can beat their previous time.
- 5 If a student says the wrong letter sound, model for him or her, and have the student repeat the correct sound. When they get to “Blast off,” let them read the column again unaided.



## Support

Start with fewer than 10 different target letters, repeated several times to make 10 letters total.



## Challenge

Make a column longer than 10 letters that students struggle with. (Typically, these include the vowels and letters *d* and *b*.)