



Oral Blending Accuracy: Alien Talk

Students will practice orally producing single-syllable words by blending three phonemes.

Prepare

Use the word bank at the end of the activity.

Warm-Up



I'm going to pretend to be an alien from planet Paz. On Paz, people speak in a strange way—like we speak, but much more slowly. We will help the aliens say the word.

Modeling

I'll show you how they speak. Instead of saying the word *Sam*, they say, *Sssaaamm*, and they touch their arm like this when they talk.

Touch your shoulder as you make the first sound, your elbow as you make the second, and your hand as you make the third. ***Sssaaamm***. Hold each letter sound for about a second, don't pause between sounds and touch your shoulder, elbow, and hand as you say the sounds.

Now, I'll say it faster. *Ssaamm. Sam.* When the aliens of Paz say *Sssaaamm* (touching your shoulder, elbow, and hand as you say the sounds), they are trying to say *Sam*.

Model for students.

Guided Practice



Now, you will pretend that you're from the planet Paz too. Say the word with me slowly and touch your arm as you say the sounds the way people on Paz say it.

I'll say the word first. *ffiiinnn*. Touch your shoulder as you make the first sound, your elbow as you make the second, and your hand as you make the third. **You say it the same way.** Students repeat the stretched word touching their shoulders, elbows, and hands. **Now say it fast. What's the word? Students say the word.**

Correct Answer: fin

If Correct: Good. When we put *ffiiinnn* together, it makes the word "fin." I think you are ready to hear some more words.

If Incorrect: Try it again with me. Touch your shoulder as you make the first sound, your elbow as you make the second, and your hand as you make the third. Say it with me: *ffiiinnn*. Now, let's say the sounds faster, *ffiiinn*. Now even faster: *fin*. What's the word? Let's try some more.

Practice



The alien word is **vvvaaannn**. **Say the alien word with me. Vvvvaaannn. Now, we'll say it like the Aliens of Paz.**

Say the word as you touch your shoulder, elbow, and hand. Student repeats the stretched word while touching shoulder, elbow, and hand. **Now say it fast. What's the word?** Call on the whole group, or on one student. Student should blend the word to say *van*.

Continue with the other words, each time saying the word slowly (i.e., segmented) while using the arm movements first, and then having the students say the word fast (i.e., blended). Alternate between calling on the whole group and on individual students.

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

Support

1. If a student leaves off a sound or says the wrong sound, model the correct sounds and then ask the student to repeat with you
2. Model and remind students to slide down their arm as they elongate the words.
3. Use only words with continuous sounds, such as /m/, /s/, /n/, and /f/. Elongate each sound to make it easier to blend them into the word (e.g., fffffaaannnnnn).

Challenge

1. Ask the question: How would an alien from Paz say the word _____?
2. Have students pick out their own word to elongate and have the rest of the group say the whole word.

Word Bank



Sounds (teacher)	Whole word (student response)
/v/ /a/ /n/	van
/n/ /A/ /m/	name
/f/ /r/ /y/	fry
/s/ /n/ /O/	snow
/r/ /a/ /n/	ran
/s/ /u/ /n/	son
/n/ /A/ /V/	nail
/n/ /I/ /n/	nine

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Word Bank *Continued*

Sounds (teacher)	Whole word (student response)
/sh/ /E/ /p/	sheep
/k/ /o/ /t/	cot
/f/ /l/ /E/	flea
/l/ /o/ /g/	log
/j/ /a/ /m/	jam
/b/ /e/ /l/	bell
/ch/ /a/ /t/	chat
/b/ /u/ /m/	bum
/b/ /ur/ /d/	bird
/r/ /oo/ /m/	room
/p/ /e/ /t/	pet
/h/ /e/ /d/	head

Wrap-Up



Thank you for helping me say the sounds fast to make real words today. I'll need to teach this to my friends on Paz!