

# Consonant Digraphs

Two letters working together for one consonant sound.

## Blend or digraph?

|                                                                           |                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Blend: two sounds</b><br>flag - /f/ /l/<br>Hear both consonant sounds. | <b>Digraph: one sound</b><br>ship - /sh/<br>Read the letter pair as one sound. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Common consonant digraphs

| Letters together | One sound        | Anchor word |
|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <b>s + h</b>     | <b>/sh/</b>      | <b>ship</b> |
| <b>c + h</b>     | <b>/ch/</b>      | <b>chat</b> |
| <b>t + h</b>     | <b>quiet th</b>  | <b>thin</b> |
| <b>t + h</b>     | <b>voiced th</b> | <b>this</b> |
| <b>w + h</b>     | <b>/w/</b>       | <b>when</b> |

## Remember

**sh** in ship and **ch** in chat make one sound. In most common words, **wh** says /w/ as in when. The word **who** is an exception.

Short Vowel Words - Clear, practical phonics resources for growing readers.

# Consonant Digraphs - More Practice

The spelling th has two common sounds. PH and CK are useful later spelling patterns.

## The two TH sounds

|                                                                                                    |                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>thin - quiet TH</b><br>Tongue lightly between the teeth. Air moves out; the throat stays quiet. | <b>this - voiced TH</b><br>Same mouth position, but turn the voice on. Feel the throat vibration. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Later spelling patterns

| Pattern   | Sound and example | How to teach it                                      |
|-----------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ph</b> | /f/ in phone      | Usually a later, less-decodable spelling pattern.    |
| <b>ck</b> | /k/ in duck       | A common final spelling for /k/ after a short vowel. |

## Read the sentences

1. The ship is on the sea.
2. Chad can chat.
3. This fish is thin.
4. When can the duck swim?

## Practice routine

Point to the two letters. Say one sound. Blend the rest of the word. Read the whole word again without separating the letters.

Short Vowel Words - Clear, practical phonics resources for growing readers.