

Spoken words are made of consonant sounds and vowel sounds

Words are made of syllables. Each syllable has a vowel sound (sometimes more than one vowel sound). Usually the vowel has a consonant sound before it and another consonant sound after it. So a simple word like “cat” has the sound ‘shape’:

Consonant – Vowel – Consonant c – a – t

Last week we looked at 24 consonantal sounds: b, ch, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, sh(mouth only), s(sh sound with voice), t, th(mouth only), th(mouth+voice), v, w, y, z, ng

Consonant blends

Sometimes, more than one consonant sound is used together. Here is a list.

The ‘...-’ symbol indicates that the consonant blend is at the beginning of a syllable (it comes before the vowel sound). The ‘-...’ symbol indicates that the consonant blend is at the end of a syllable (it comes after the vowel sound).

Double sound blends

Consonant + “l” bl-, cl-, fl-, gl-, pl-, sl-

Consonant + “r” br-, cr-, dr-, fr-, gr-, pr-, shr-, tr-, thr-

Consonant + “p” -mp, -lp, -sp, sp-

Consonant + “w” qu-, dw-, qu-, sw-, tw-

Consonant + “s” -bs, -x (-cks), -ds, -fs, -gs, -ls, -ms, -ns, -ps, -ts, -ths, -vs,

“l” + Consonant -lb, -lc, -ld, -lf, -lg, -lm, -lp, -lt, -lv

“n” + Consonant -nd, -nk, -nt

“p” + Consonant -pt

“s” + Consonant sc-, -sk, sl-, -sm, sm-, sn-, -sp, sp-, -st, st-, sw-

“th” + Consonant thr-, -ths

Triple sound blends

“s” + Double blend scr-, spl-, spr-, str-

Double blend + “s” -mps, -lps, -sps, -nds, -nks, -nts, -pts, -sms, -sts