



Cluster Reduction Minimal Pairs

A two- or three-consonant blend gets squeezed down to a single consonant.



RESOLVES

Clusters without /s/ by 4;0
• **Clusters with /s/ by 5;0**

PAIRS

20

SOUNDS

All consonant blends

A blend asks a child to move from one consonant straight into another with no vowel to rest on. Early on, one of the two consonants wins and the other disappears. Which one survives is fairly predictable: in /s/ blends the /s/ usually goes ("spoon" becomes "soon"), and in liquid blends the /r/ or /l/ usually goes ("black" becomes "back").

Try this: Pull the blend apart and put it back together. Say the two sounds with a big gap - "sssss ... oon" - then shrink the gap a little each time until they collide. Children find this much easier than being told to "say it all together."

/bl/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

black

CHILD SAYS

> back

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/br/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

bread

CHILD SAYS

> bed

TARGET

brush

CHILD SAYS

> bush

/cr/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

crab

CHILD SAYS

> cab

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/cl/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

clap

CHILD SAYS

> cap

TARGET

clown

CHILD SAYS

> cown *

/dr/ (1 pairs)



TARGET CHILD SAYS
drive > dive

 **/fr/ (1 pairs)**

TARGET CHILD SAYS
frog > fog

 **/fl/ (1 pairs)**

TARGET CHILD SAYS
flower > fower *

 **/pl/ (2 pairs)**

TARGET CHILD SAYS
plug > pug

 **/tr/ (2 pairs)**

TARGET CHILD SAYS
tree > tea

 **/st/ (2 pairs)**

TARGET CHILD SAYS
stop > top

 **/sn/ (1 pairs)**

TARGET CHILD SAYS
snail > nail

 **/sw/ (1 pairs)**

TARGET CHILD SAYS
swing > wing

 **/sl/ (1 pairs)**

TARGET CHILD SAYS

TARGET CHILD SAYS

TARGET CHILD SAYS

TARGET CHILD SAYS
plate > pate *

TARGET CHILD SAYS
train > tain *

TARGET CHILD SAYS
stir > tir *

TARGET CHILD SAYS

TARGET CHILD SAYS



TARGET CHILD SAYS
sled > sed *

 **/sp/ (1 pairs)**

TARGET CHILD SAYS
spin > pin

 **/sk/ (1 pairs)**

TARGET CHILD SAYS
skate > Kate

TARGET CHILD SAYS

TARGET CHILD SAYS

TARGET CHILD SAYS

* not a real word - written the way a child would say it