

## Make A Word

### What is "Make a Word" and why is it important?

"Make a Word" (Cunningham, 1991) is a strategy that helps your child learn letter/sound relationships and use that knowledge to create words. As your child practices using specific letters in various combinations to form words, he is acquiring the knowledge necessary to read those words.

### How can I use "Make a Word" with my child?

The "Make a Word" strategy can be practiced one or more times a day for ten to fifteen minutes. Use "Make a Word" worksheets to practice specific letters and sounds. The worksheet suggests a combination of simple and more difficult words. You can also add challenge words as your child becomes comfortable manipulating the letter combinations to make words. Following is an example of a "Make A Word" worksheet.

First, have your child cut out the letters on the bottom of this page and spread them out. Second, have him outline the vowels in red (a, e, i, o, u). Third, ask your child to make the words below. If he feels comfortable with making the four-letter words, encourage him to make the longer words as well.

1. Take two letters to make the word "at"
2. Add one letter to make the word "cat"
3. Change one letter to make "sat"
4. Make the four-letter word "chat"
5. Change one letter to make the word "hats"
6. Add one letter to make "splat"
7. Now make "flat"
8. Change two letters to make "brat"

a	s	h	l	b
c	t	p	f	r

After completing the "Make a Word" strategy, your child can use the same words in "Word Sort," "Pick Up" and "Dictated Words" to get additional practice in reading and writing the words.

Note: Practice letter combinations are available on the ThinkingWorks website ([www.getthinkingworks.com](http://www.getthinkingworks.com)).

*Make a Word*

Short Vowels								
<b>ab</b>								
dab	cab	gab	jab	drab	crab	stab	drab	
<b>ag</b>								
hag	bag	lag	sag	gag	jag	rag	nag	tag
wag	brag	flag	crag	stag	drag	snag	swag	slag
shag								
<b>am</b>								
am	jam	cam	ham	dam	swam	gram	dram	pram
scam	spam	clam	cram	tram	scram			
<b>an</b>								
an	van	ban	can	ran	fan	tan	pan	man
bran	scan	than	span	clan	plan	began		
<b>ap</b>								
sap	pap	nap	lap	cap	tap	gap	hap	map
rap	slap	wrap	chap	snap	trap	clap	flap	scrap
strap								
<b>at</b>								
at	vat	cat	fat	bat	mat	hat	rat	sat
pat	that	spat	gnat	flat	crat	chat	plat	slat
sprat								
<b>ed</b>								
bed	wed	fed	ted	led	red	bled	sped	fled
bred	shed	sled						
<b>eg</b>								
peg	beg	egg	keg	leg	skeg	dreg		
<b>em</b>								
hem	gem	stem	them					
<b>en</b>								
yen	den	men	ten	pen	fen	hen	ken	glen
then	wren	when						

*Make a Word*

Short Vowels								
<b>et</b>								
get	met	bet	jet	wet	yet	pet	set	let
net	fret							
<b>id</b>								
bid	did	lid	hid	rid	mid	kid	chid	amid
grid	quid	slid	skid	squid	forbid			
<b>ig</b>								
dig	wig	rig	fig	pig	jig	gig	big	swig
twig	prig	brig	sprig					
<b>ill</b>								
ill	sill	dill	will	fill	till	gill	rill	bill
hill	pill	mill	kill	chill	grill	quill	drill	trill
swill	twill	still	skill	spill	shrill	squill	thrill	
<b>im</b>								
vim	dim	him	rim	brim	trim	whim	glim	limb
grim	prim	slim	swim	skim				
<b>in</b>								
in	din	gin	fin	kin	bin	sin	win	tin
pin	spin	twin	shin	chin	grin	thin	skin	
<b>ip</b>								
sip	nip	tip	dip	rip	lip	hip	pip	trip
clip	whip	quip	ship	chip	flip	grip	drip	slip
snip	scrip	skip	strip					
<b>it</b>								
it	bit	hit	wit	tit	kit	sit	fit	pit
lit	whit	writ	grit	quit	flit	smit	spit	twit
slit	knit	chit	sprit	split				
<b>ix</b>								
six	fix	mix						
<b>od</b>								
tod	nod	god	cod	sod	rod	mod	pod	clod
prod								

*Make a Word*

Short Vowels								
<b>og</b>								
bog	log	jog	cog	dog	nog	hog	clog	slog
flog	grog	frog						
<b>op</b>								
sop	top	lop	pop	mop	hop	crop	flop	stop
shop	chop	drop	prop	slop				
<b>ot</b>								
dot	jot	not	cot	tot	rot	hot	got	lot
pot	trot	blot	knot	shot	plot			
<b>ox</b>								
ox	vox	fox	box	cox	pox	sox	lox	
<b>ud</b>								
mud	bud	sud	dud	cud	thud	scud	spud	stud
<b>ug</b>								
dug	lug	bug	mug	rug	pug	tug	hug	jug
chug	slug	thug	snug	drug	smug	plug	shrug	
<b>um</b>								
sum	bum	hum	rum	gum	mum	scum	drum	swum
glum	plum	slum	chum	scrum	strum			
<b>un</b>								
tun	bun	sun	dun	stun	fun	spun	nun	run
pun	gun							
<b>up</b>								
up	cup	tup	sup	pup	hiccup	teacup	makeup	
<b>ut</b>								
but	hut	mut	cut	tut	gut	rut	jut	slut
scut	shut	smut	glut	strut				

**Make a Word**

**Long Vowels with Silent e**

**a**

ate	lake	base	gave	make	same	tale	face	came
wave	game	made	late	fade	name	place	crate	plane
spade	space	flake	state	blame	table	blade	snake	slate
blaze	trade	quake	drape	brave	grave	skate	shame	

**e**

Pete

**i**

fire	ride	wife	five	wire	pine	bite	like	pipe
size	mile	time	mine	life	live	side	wide	while
swipe	drive	glide	white	stride	write	whine	bride	spine
strife	quite	crime	swine	pride	chime	spite	stripe	thine
smile	slide							

**o**

hope	dote	joke	vote	nose	rose	bone	rode	note
rope	hole	woke	cone	home	phone	broke	globe	smoke
drove	grobe	froze	stove	stole	scope	stone	those	slope
choke	throne							

**u**

hue	muse	tube	fuse	clue	mule	mute	blue	huge
glue	cute	cube	flute	crude	fluke	prune	brute	

**Make a Word**

**Vowel Digraphs**

**ai**

aid	bail	fail	mail	gain	pain	nail	hail	lain
vain	raid	tail	laid	paid	maid	rain	bait	sail
gait	wait	jail	wail	pail	rail	grain	faint	stain
quail	braid	raise	faith	taint	paint	frail	train	chain
daily	saint	braise	strain	praise	quaint	strait	raisin	

**ay**

cay	hay	pay	bay	nay	way	lay	ray	jay
fay	day	may	say	tray	bray	play	clay	gray
fray	slay	spay	stay	relay	delay	stray	layer	parlay
bayonet	daylight							

**ea**

**(reach)**

sea	tea	feat	weak	leap	peat	team	seal	bead
veal	read	gear	each	leak	real	meat	heal	seat
leaf	bean	seam	meal	heap	neat	peal	heat	beak
ream	beam	mean	cease	gleam	freak	bleak	beach	teach
clean	reach	wheat	heath	cheat	sneak	cheap	feast	creak
plead	glean	beast	weave	dream	bleat	peach	steal	tweak
cream	leave	lease	wreath	grease	knead	weasel	deacon	beagle
reason	crease	scream	season	sheave	beacon	please	streak	bleach
stream	breach	measles						

**ea**

**(weather)**

deaf	head	lead	dead	heavy	wealth	health	spread	thread
weapon	leather	heaven	meadow	measure	treasure	weather	heather	sweater
feather	cleanser	pleasure	breakfast					

**ee**

eel	wee	reef	weep	beef	deem	keep	feet	jeep
seed	reel	heel	teem	seek	keen	seem	week	seen
deed	weed	deep	peep	beep	peek	meeke	knee	leek
meed	tree	sheep	green	creed	greet	cheep	sweep	wheel
sleet	preen	sheen	kneel	sleep	queen	geese	agree	fleet
Greek	sleek	cheek	speed	bleed	speed	steep	spree	teeny
leech	sweet	wheeze	sneeze	beetle	tweeze	speech	screech	cheese
seethe	needle							

**ei**

**(freight)**

lei	neigh	reign	weigh	beige	eight	sleigh	weight	reindeer
neighbor								

**Make a Word**

<b>Vowel Digraphs</b>									
<b>ei</b>	<b>(ceiling)</b>								
veil	seize	sheik	either	receipt	neither	leisure	receive	ceiling	
perceive	conceive								
<b>ie</b>	<b>(piece)</b>								
pier	life	lien	thief	yield	field	niece	siege	wield	
grief	chief	piece	fiend	grieve	belief	diesel	prairie	thievish	
medieval	achieve								
<b>oa</b>									
oat	oak	oaf	boat	goat	road	soap	loan	coax	
goal	foam	moat	toad	coal	loaf	soak	coat	moan	
load	goad	roam	coast	cloak	float	croak	boast	shoal	
toast	gloat	coach	groan	poach	roast	roach	throat	broach	
approach									
<b>oo</b>	<b>(spoon)</b>								
zoo	coo	loot	food	tool	loon	boon	coop	hoop	
pool	cool	loop	coon	roof	root	boom	moon	noose	
hoot	mood	goose	boost	droop	moose	scoop	noose	shoot	
pooch	booth	tooth	spool	drool	bloom	brood	spoon	broom	
igloo	booze	stool	stoop	bamboo	saloon	smooth	poodle	baboon	
noodle	goober	looser	groove	maroon	rooster	foolish	balloon	blooper	
caboose	shampoo	cartoon	kangaroo	raccoon	mushroom				
<b>ou</b>	<b>(rough)</b>								
young	tough	double	cousin	enough	curious	trouble	envious	enormous	
<b>ow</b>									
row	tow	own	owe	sow	low	mow	flow	blow	
show	grow	snow	crow	slow	glow	stow	bowl	below	
throw	arrow	blown	elbow	grown	owing	known	willow	billow	
sorrow	growth	fellow	follow	harrow	thrown	mellow	pillow	swallow	
tomorrow									

**Make a Word**

**Vowel Diphtongs**

**au (Paul)**

aunt	aura	faun	laud	haul	auto	audio	cause	haunt
sauce	pause	vault	fault	mauve	fraud	auger	audit	daunt
gaudy	caulk	taunt	gauze	taunt	auburn	launch	saucer	taught
faucet	laurel	pauper	August	autumn	caught	clause	author	augment
auspice	maudlin	launder	caustic	austere	dauphin	naughty	applause	au gratin
daughter	authentic	cauldron						

**aw (saw)**

jaw	awe	raw	paw	saw	caw	law	bawl	flaw
claw	pawl	slaw	pawn	thaw	yawn	lawn	dawn	fawn
draw	hawk	brawl	crawl	awful	drawn	tawny	shawl	straw
drawn	drawer	Mohawk	lawyer	sprawl	hawthorn	awkward		

**all (fall)**

all	wall	pall	gall	fall	hall	call	ball	tall
mall	stall	spall	small	scald	walled	squall	wallet	install
tallest	hallway	fallout	callable	allspice	ballplayer			

**ew (new)**

yew	hew	dew	pew	few	new	stew	brew	hewn
anew	grew	skew	chew	spew	clew	view	drew	knew
flew	news	crew	blew	threw	whew	renew	shrew	askew
newly	jewel	screw	shrewd	newscaster				

**oi (coil)**

oil	toil	soil	join	foil	void	loin	coil	boil
coin	avoid	spoil	poise	moist	noise	broil	point	joint
hoist	voice	joist	foible	poison	choice	loiter	anoint	despoil
appoint	turmoil	asteroid	boisterous					

**oy (toy)**

soy	toy	hoy	boy	joy	cloy	ahoy	ploy	annoy
alloy	enjoy	loyal	decoy	royal	convoy	voyage	employ	disloyal
destroyer								

**Make a Word**

**Vowel Diphtongs**

**ou (pout)**

out	our	foul	ouch	noun	thou	trout	sour	pout
loud	hour	flour	route	scout	clout	scour	about	flout
cloud	mouth	found	bound	aloud	count	shout	ounce	couch
hound	doubt	house	mound	wound	mount	pouch	round	mouse
proud	grout	pound	sprout	ground	trounce	amount	blouse	crouch
devour	account	announce						

**ow (how)**

wow	vow	now	owl	pow	cow	how	down	town
scow	brow	chow	prow	fowl	plow	gown	jowl	howl
clown	vowel	prowl	power	endow	drown	brown	crown	dower
crowd	grown	allow	rowdy	shower	powder	flower		

**Make a Word**

<b>Words with a vowel and “r”</b>									
<b>er</b>									
her	fern	herd	were	jerk	clerk	stern	perch	shower	
tender	mother	sender	player	longer	reader	fender			
<b>ir</b>									
sir	fir	stir	firm	dirt	bird	hair	girl	skirt	
chirp	birth	twirl	whirl	first	third	birch	shirk	shirt	
squirm	thirsty								
<b>or</b>									
form	corn	born	worm	more	worn	horn	lord	torn	
fork	storm	torch	porch	stork	forth	thorn	sport	short	
scorn	scorch	morning							
<b>ur</b>									
fur	urn	curl	purr	turn	curb	surf	burn	hurt	
furl	spurt	burst	churn	church	squirt	furnish	furniture		
<b>ar</b>									
ark	far	bar	tar	car	arm	yard	arch	harm	
hard	card	barn	farm	scar	yarn	star	cart	mark	
park	spark	chart	smart	start	scarf	march	sharp	charm	
shark	starch								