

Step-by-Step Reading Program

Letter Swap Whiteboard Exercise: the z sound of s

Goal: To recognize that the letter 's' can represent the /s/ sound or the /z/ sound.

Materials: one small whiteboard, a dry-erase marker, and an eraser for each student.

Preparation: Cut out the letter tiles shown below.

Instructions

1. *Blend sounds to make the word tap*

- Say the first sound in this word and ask students to place the letter representing this sound on the board. Repeat with the other sounds. Ask students to say the word and write it.

2. *Add a sound to make the word taps*

- Say the word 'taps', with emphasis on the final /s/. Ask students to place the letter representing this sound in the correct location to change tap to taps. Ask students to say the word and write it. *Keep the tiles on the board.*

3. *Repeat tasks 1 and 2 to make the word bug and change it to bugs*

4. *Compare the sounds in taps and bugs* Point to the letter s in taps and ask what sound it represents. Repeat with bugs. Make sure that students understand that the letter s represents the /s/ sound in taps and the /z/ sound in bugs.

