

# "Word Of THE Week" - Year 1-2

As a result of a question in the Teacher's Lounge, I'm sharing a "Word of the Week" activity I do with my tutoring students. This one is suitable for kids in Year 1-2. (I have a similar one for Primary kids in Year 3 or above. See the 'Documents' section of the Tutoring Group on the Reading Simplified Academy.)

The idea is to give your child a tricky word to decode. I deliberately give them quite tricky words so the child would **HAVE** to struggle with it and use all their "detective skills" to work it out!

I put the laminated word strip on my "Word of the Week" board but I also had a paper copy for them, which we could mark up and then glue into their work book. I used words like:

picnic, lunch, shrink, etc

performance

extraordinary

atmosphere

specialization

sensational

Sometimes I also got them to fill out the mini worksheet in this resource. There are PLENTY of similar ones out there! Mine is 4 to a page, but there are lots of full page sheets on TPT - it totally depends on how much time you want to spend on the activity!

I printed the words onto paper to give to my student and get them to help me "mark up" their word with what I call 'dots and dashes'. We would put a dot under any letter that said the sound we were expecting. So in "ship" for example, we would dot the /i/ and the /p/. We would put a 'dash' under any 'teams', such as /sh/, or /ea/, or other vowel teams. If a vowel made a long sound we would add the 'long vowel' mark (macron) above it, & if a letter made a sound that wasn't its usual 'alphabet sound' we would write it above the letter. For example, in 'dance' we would 'dot' the d, a, & n, put a dash under the /ce/ and write /s/ above the 'ce'. We would circle prefixes and suffixes. It's amazing how after a few tries they would cotton on to the technique and begin to automatically recognise "tion" as "shun" on words!! I used this one "word of the week" to teach as many 'mini-lessons' as I could!!!!

Here's some examples of how I 'mark up' a word with a child. (These words are for Year 3+ students but still illustrate the technique.) I try to get them to do as much work as possible but sometimes I have to tell them, "Oh that letter says an 'ayyy' sound in this word." etc. Before I did Reading Simplified I was searching for ways to help kids and I saw another person use similar marks to use when 'decomposing' words and I've adopted some of them and made up my own. I also use the 'upside down' e to mark schwa sounds.

I made up a 'name' for letters that don't say the sound we expect, such as the letter /y/. I called them **"Party Hat" letters** and told kids that letter was sick of making their own sounds so they

would 'dress up' as another sound. I would draw a "Party Hat" over a letter - (and sometimes even draw the elastic around the letter's "chin") and then write the sound that letter was now making inside the triangle. So in 'father', the letter /a/ says 'arrrr' so I would draw a triangle over the /a/ and then write 'ar' inside it.

**FINALLY...** print the following pages back to back, cut and fold. Help the child think of a suitable synonym or consult "Mr Google"!

**Tap It, Map It, Zap It** = Tap out the number of **phonemes** in the word. Stretch the word out & count the sounds. Map It = Decompose the word by writing the individual phonemes - one per box. Zap it = Zap it back together by writing the word again

Feel free to get in touch for any clarification. Mim

Tap it! Map it! Zap it!

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Picture:

Rainbow write. Add "Dots and Dashes".

(c) Miriam Blake 2019 - Find me on Facebook: [Mim Blake Tutoring](#)

Tap it! Map it! Zap it!

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Picture:

Rainbow write. Add "Dots and Dashes".

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**!WOW**

Glue this side down.

:sfhuoufS

**!WOW**

Glue this side down.

:sfhuoufS

**!WOW**

Glue this side down.

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**!WOW**

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