

Onsets

*** Onsets are important for students to know so they can make the first sound of an unknown word and read on. They must learn to look at the first couple of letters, not just the first one, because /t/ is different than /th/ or /thr/. If the word begins with /th/ but they just make the /t/ and read on, they will not be able to guess a word that makes sense in that place that starts with /t/.

*** Teach these onsets with hand or body movements. Teach the kids to say "b-l says /bl/ like in blink" (while blinking their eyes). The ones below are suggestions. Usually a class will modify the movements for the onsets. Example: "s-h says /sh/ like in shake". One student suggested "s-h says /sh/ like in shark" and put her hand on her head like a fin and moved her head like a shark swimming through the water.

			
blink	sleep	scared	skin
brush	shark	spin	phone
chop	stop	swim	whisper
clap	play	freeze	write
think	smell	ground	knee
drive	snap	growl	quiet
fly	crown	tree	
glasses	pretty	straight	
	pray	three	