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# Phoneme Differences

The ability to hear different phonemes and distinguish between similar ones is a pre-phonics skill. Use Tests 5A-C to determine if your student can hear the differences requested. If he or she cannot, then you will want to have the student spend time practicing phoneme drills.

To help you evaluate your student's phoneme awareness, three types of phoneme hearing tests can be used:

- Test 5A—Initial Consonants
- Test 5B—Medial Vowels
- Test 5C—Final Consonants

If a student makes any errors on the practice words before beginning the test, tell him or her the difference and try a few more examples. During the test, mark the errors and use them later for drills, adding additional words of your choosing.

## Directions

Make one photocopy of the test for you as the teacher to use. The student should not see (or be given) a printed copy of this test.

Write the student's name and the date on the copy. Speak clearly so that the student can hear you well, but do not speak too slowly or exaggerate the time between words.

## Scoring

Write the student's response on your teacher's copy. Then total the number of correct and incorrect answers. Note which consonants or vowels are missed so that drills can be individually designed for the student.

## Teaching Suggestions

Practice using pairs of words. If you detect a weakness with particular sounds, give more practice on those sounds. For a list of the sample speech sounds, see the "Simplified Phonics Chart" on pages 29 and 30.

Another interesting lesson is to have the students substitute different phonemes to make a new word as shown below.

Initial consonant example—For the word "sing," substitute /th/ and make "thing."

Vowel example—For the word "cat," substitute /u/ and make "cut."

Final consonant example—For the word "hill," substitute /m/ and make "him."

You can also delete a phoneme from a word and show how it changes.

For example: Delete the initial consonant from "cat" and make the word "at."

Delete the final consonant from "goat" and make the word "go."

# Phoneme Differences: Initial Consonants

Note: The student does not see a copy of this test.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice

Tell the student, "I am going to say two words. Listen carefully to both words, and then tell me if they are the same or different." Then repeat the examples.

fly-try            (different)  
try-try            (same)

Test Words	Correct Response	Student Response	Correct	Incorrect
1. bill-bill	same	_____	_____	_____
2. pill-bill	different	_____	_____	_____
3. king-ding	different	_____	_____	_____
4. ding-ding	same	_____	_____	_____
5. ting-ding	different	_____	_____	_____
6. look-nook	different	_____	_____	_____
7. nook-nook	same	_____	_____	_____
8. jump-hump	different	_____	_____	_____
9. he-me	different	_____	_____	_____
10. see-see	same	_____	_____	_____
11. shut-shut	same	_____	_____	_____
12. shut-rut	different	_____	_____	_____
13. thing-zing	different	_____	_____	_____
14. zing-sing	different	_____	_____	_____
15. sing-sing	same	_____	_____	_____
16. voice-choice	different	_____	_____	_____
17. choose-choose	same	_____	_____	_____
18. white-flight	different	_____	_____	_____
19. while-while	same	_____	_____	_____
20. yell-sell	different	_____	_____	_____
			<b>Total Correct</b>	<b>Total Incorrect</b>