

Phonemic Awareness

LEVEL 1

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PLAYING CARDS

11 Fun Games



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11 Games to Play

Beginning Sound Match

Lay out cards and ask the student to find two that start with the same sound.
“Which picture starts the same as ‘bat’?”

I Spy by Sound

Say: “I spy something that starts with /m/.” The student finds the matching card.

Sound Memory

Use matching pairs that begin with the same sound. The student flips two cards at a time to find a sound match.

Tap & Say

Lay out one card. The student taps once for each sound in the word.
Example: “sun” = tap, tap, tap

Beginning Sound Hunt

Choose a card. The student finds 2–3 real objects around the home that start with the same sound.

Odd One Out

Show three cards—two with the same beginning sound and one that doesn’t.
Ask the student: “Which one doesn’t belong?”

Sound Hop

Place cards on the floor. Call out a sound. The student hops to a card that starts with that sound.



Match & Say

Say a sound (like /k/). The student finds and names all cards that begin with that sound.

Go Fish

The student says the first sound of a card in their hand:

“Do you have something that starts with /p/ like pig?”

With two decks: Match exact pictures

With one deck: Match by beginning sound

Sound Hide & Seek

Hide a few cards around the room. When the student finds one, they say the word and its first sound.

Slap It

Split the deck in half. Place one half in a draw pile and spread the other half face-up.

The student draws a card, says the word and its beginning sound, then races to slap a matching face-up card.

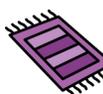
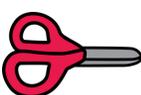
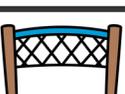
If correct, they keep both. The player with the most pairs wins.

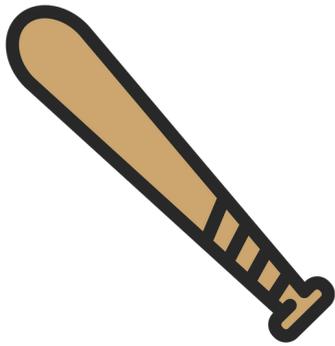
Tips for Adapting the Games

These games can grow with your student. Start with beginning sounds, then try ending sounds, syllable clapping, or rhyming as they're ready. You don't always need to use the full deck—you can choose just a few cards at a time to keep it manageable. Feel free to mix and match cards or create your own rules to keep things fun and engaging. The goal is consistent practice in short, playful sessions.

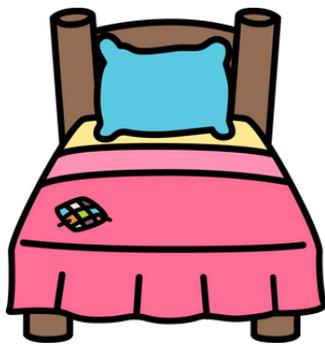


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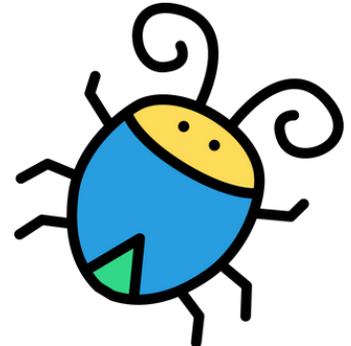
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	Ax		Hammer		Octopus
	Balloon		Hat		Olive
	Bat		Hen		Pig
	Bed		Jacket		Pot
	Bug		Jam		Rat
	Cat		Lamp		Rug
	Cop		Leg		Scissors
	Dog		Lip		Sun
	Duck		Log		Tent
	Egg		Map		Turtle
	Elephant		Money		Van
	Fish		Mop		Vase
	Flower		Mug		Zebra
	Goat		Net		Zipper



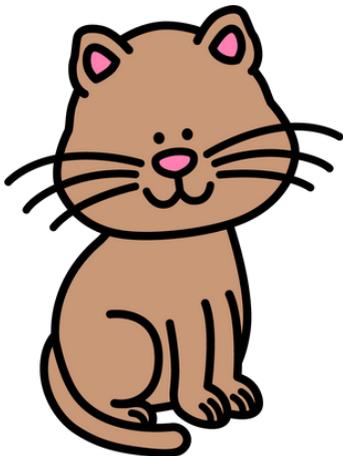
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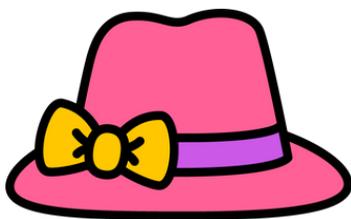
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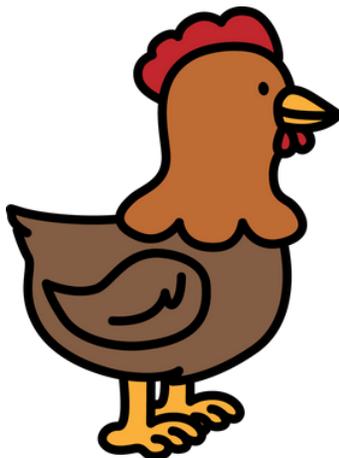
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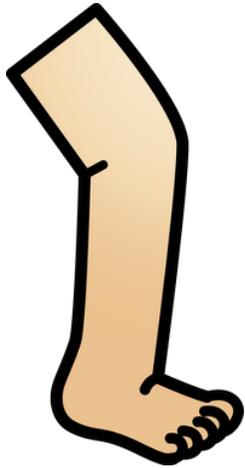
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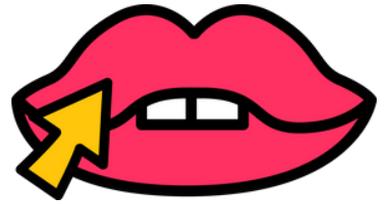
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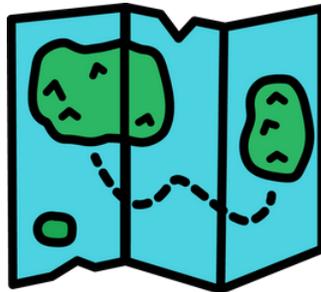
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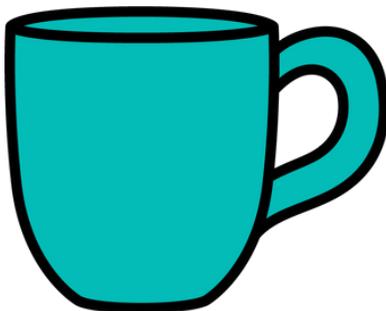
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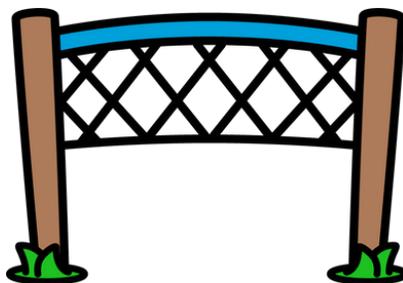
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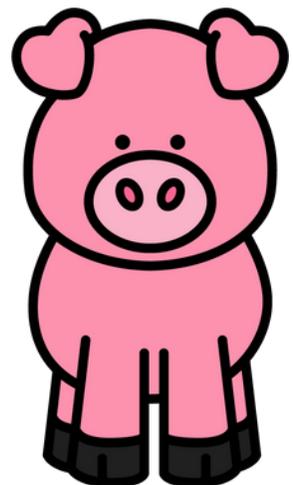
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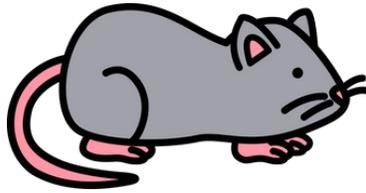
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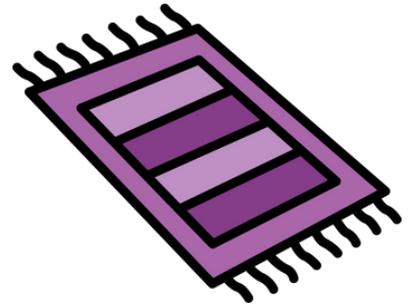
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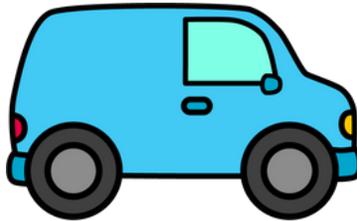
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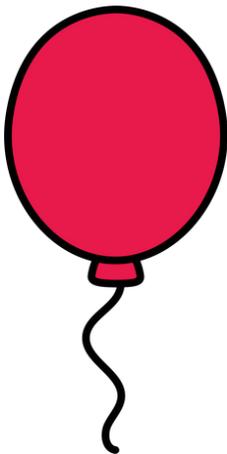
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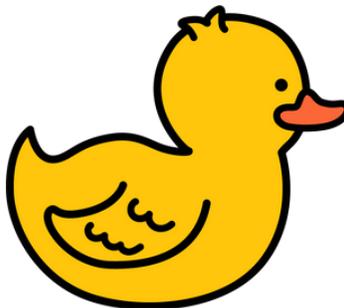
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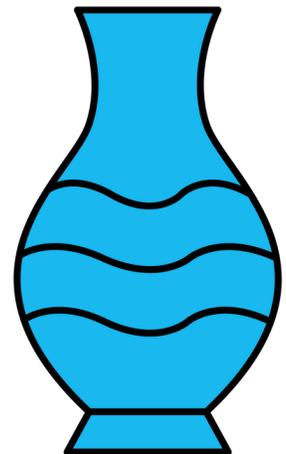
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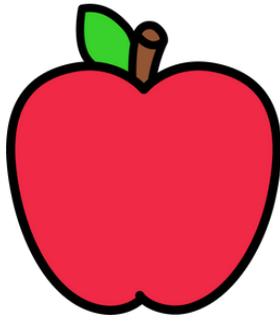
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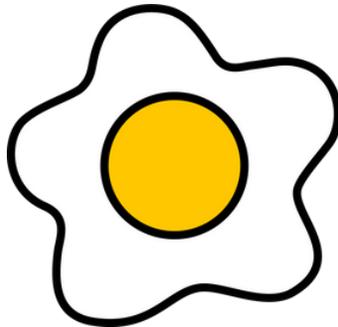
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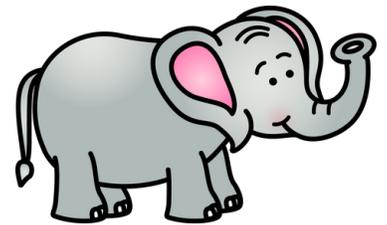
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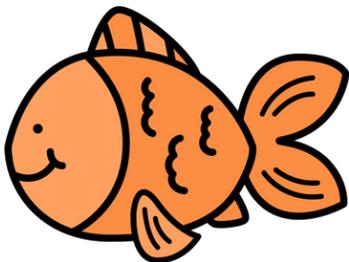
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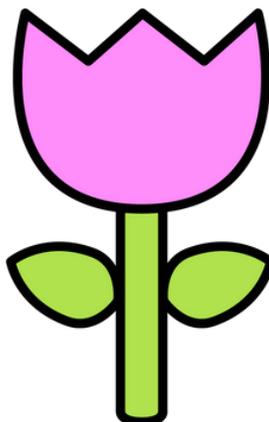
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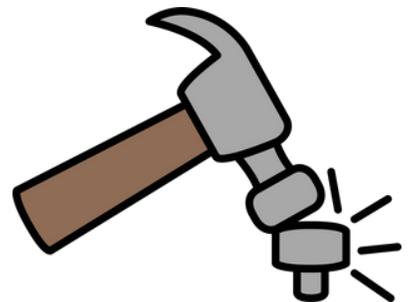
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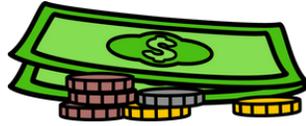
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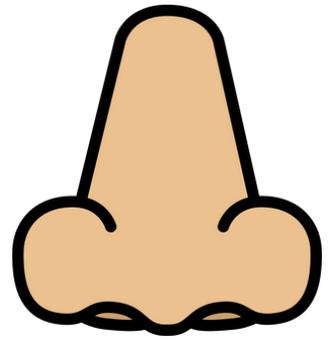
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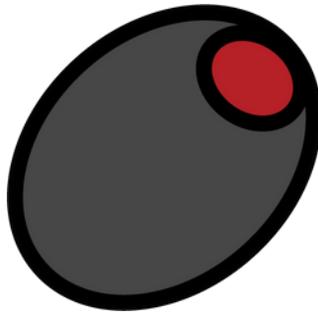
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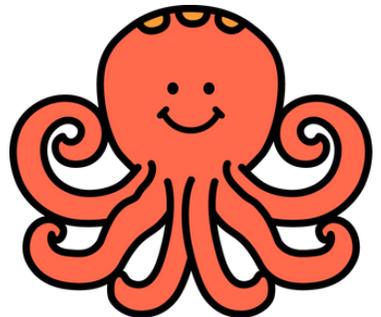
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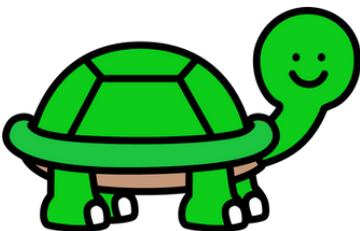
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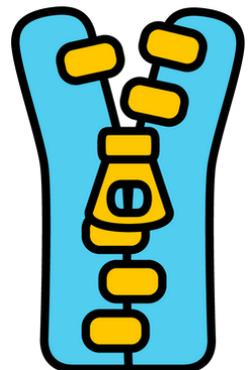
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