Introduce your class to the way words are formed using individual letters with this hands-on activity. Students will practice important prereading skills, while having fun making silly new words.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to understand that individual letters combined together with a vowel makes a word.

Materials and Preparation

**Materials**

- Foam sheets of varying colors
- Egg shape template
- Scissors
- Permanent marker
- Basket or bowl

**Preparation**

- Trace egg shapes on your foam sheets.
- Draw zigzags horizontally across the eggs to create three pieces.
- Turn eggs sideways, and write one three letter word per egg, with one letter in each section created by the zigzags.
- Words should have interchangeable letters. Example: *mat, rat, met, net, pet, pat, pot, pit, sit, fit, fat, sat, sun, fun, man, pan, ran.*
- Cut out eggs and cut along zigzags to create puzzle pieces.
- Place puzzle pieces in a basket or bowl.
Lesson

Introduction *(10 minutes)*

- Gather students into a circle.
- Place the basket in the middle of the circle.
- Pick out three pieces and put them together to show your students how they fit together.
- Identify the short sound of each vowel in your basket.
- Review sounds of different consonants in your basket.
- Now show the students how to put the pieces together to make a word.
- Sound out the word, one letter at a time.

Explicit Instruction/Teacher Modeling *(10 minutes)*

- Separate the vowels from the consonants.
- Demonstrate how to make a word by picking up two consonant pieces and one vowel piece.
- Review their sounds separately.
- Show how to assemble the pieces with two consonants on each side and one vowel in between.
- Point to each letter and sound it out slowly as you move your finger across it.
- Then, move your finger faster and encourage the students to match the sounds.
- As you move your finger faster and match the sound, the students will hear the sound of the word they see in the puzzle.

Guided Practice/Interactive Modeling *(10 minutes)*

- Encourage students to try and put pieces together to make a word themselves.
- Let them try different combinations using whatever color combinations they want.
- Draw their attention to the letters on each piece and ask them to sound it out. Remind them gently what sounds the letters make.
- Once students know the sounds, now is the time to help them sound it out in a continuous manner to make the word.
Independent Working Time *(10 minutes)*

- Allow the students to familiarize themselves with the pieces.
- Observe to see if students are getting frustrated. The goal is for them to have fun while learning. Offer suggestions to help students fix their problems.
- Encourage students to work independently to make words by appreciating their effort and focus.

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**Extend**

**Differentiation**

- **Enrichment:** Encourage students to put together as many words as they can in a given time limit. Use a timer!
- **Support:** Encourage students to put the pieces together to make an egg. Practice color identification or color matching.

Get more lesson plans at [www.education.com/lesson-plans/](http://www.education.com/lesson-plans/)
Review

Assessment *(5 minutes)*

- Ask your students to make two words and check if they are able to sound out the words correctly.
- Check to see if they are trying to make new words, whether or not they are real.
- If students get frustrated, allow them to move on to another activity.

Review and Closing *(5 minutes)*

- Gather the class back into a circle.
- Encourage them to each say a word they made.
- Ask students to voice any more questions or concerns they may have.