Consonant Digraphs

Generalization Words can have two or three consonants together that are pronounced as one sound: English, father, trophy, chapter, watch.

Word Sort Sort the list words by the digraphs sh, th, ph, ch, or tch.

Sh
1. English
2. fashion
3. shrink
4. flash

Ph
9. alphabet
10. trophy
11. nephew

Th
5. father
6. other
7. weather
8. athlete

Ch
12. chapter

Tch
13. watch
14. catch
15. pitcher

Spelling Words
1. father
2. chapter
3. other
4. alphabet
5. watch
6. English
7. weather
8. catch
9. fashion
10. shrink
11. pitcher
12. flash
13. athlete
14. trophy
15. nephew

Home Activity Your child is learning how to spell words with sh, th, ph, ch, and tch. To practice at home, have your child look at the word, say it, and point to the digraphs.
Amazing Bird Nests

There are many kinds of birds, and each variety builds a different nest. This selection discusses how, where, and why birds build nests. It tells about the unusual places they build, and the materials they use. It focuses on some unusual nests, including one of the smallest—the hummingbird’s nest, barely an inch across—and one of the largest—the eagle’s nest, which can weigh as much as a car!

Activity

Bird Watching  Spring is the time for birds to begin nest building. Cut up pieces of string, yarn, clothing strips, and other colorful items. Place the collection in a loose sack so birds can remove them. Place the sack in a spot where you can watch the birds without disturbing the birds. This should be done in March. Watch the birds as they visit the string sack.

Comprehension Skill

Main Idea and Details

The topic is what a piece of writing is all about. The main idea is the most important idea about the topic. Details are small pieces of information or facts. They tell more about the main idea.

Activity

A Nest of Details  Draw a tree limb with a bird’s nest. Draw four large eggs in the nest. Then use the drawing as a graphic organizer. Write a topic on the limb, and write the main idea on the nest. Then write a detail that tells more about the main idea on each egg.
Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know
Knowing the meaning of these words is important to reading Amazing Bird Nests. Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words
bill the hard part of a bird’s mouth; beak
goo thick, sticky matter
hunters people or animals that hunt
material what a thing is made of
platform a raised level surface for people to stand or sit on
tons units of weight equal to 2,000 pounds
twigs very small branches of a tree or bush

Conventions

Plural Possessive Nouns
If two or more people share or own something, use a plural possessive noun. Add an apostrophe (’) to plural nouns that end in -s, -es, or -ies to make them possessive (boys’, ladies’, canvases’). Add an apostrophe and an -s to make irregular plural nouns possessive (the men’s coats).

Activity
Using Plural Possessive Nouns
Write sentences similar to the following on paper. Help your child decide the correct way to make the underlined word possessive. Then have your child read aloud the correct sentences.

1. Put the boys’ boots by the door.
2. The puppies’ collars are blue.
3. Are those the children’s coats?
Main Idea and Details

- The **topic** is what a piece of writing is about.
- The **main idea** is the most important idea about the topic.
- **Details** and facts are small pieces of information. They tell more about the main idea.

**Directions**  Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

People can learn by observing animals. Years ago, watching beavers at work probably gave people the idea of building a dam to form a pond. Beavers cut wood with their long teeth and pile it in a river or stream. The pile of wood becomes the beavers’ home. It also slows the moving water to form a pond. Today, when people want to build a pond, they can use what they’ve learned by observing beavers.

1. What is the topic of the passage? **People can learn by observing animals.**

2. What is the main idea? **Early people may have learned about building dams from beavers.**

3. On the lines below, write three details that support the main idea.
   a. **Beavers cut wood and pile it in a river to make a dam.**
   b. **The dam slows the water to make a pond.**
   c. **People can make a pond by building a dam.**

**Home Activity**  Your child identified a selection’s topic, main idea, and details. With your child, read a chapter from one of his or her school textbooks. Have your child locate the topic, main idea, and several details.

**DVD•116 Comprehension**
Draw Conclusions

- A conclusion is a decision or opinion that makes sense based on facts and details.
- When you use information you read along with information you already know to make decisions about a story, you are drawing conclusions.

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

At the beginning of summer, Matt visited the zoo. At the tiger exhibit, he saw two tiger cubs playing in the sunshine. Matt watched the cubs as they pretended to fight. When the cubs tried to roar, little squeaks came out of their mouths instead. They were so cute and cuddly looking and so much fun to watch that Matt decided he wanted one for a pet.

At the end of summer, Matt went back to see the cubs. They were big now. One swiped at a tree with its paws, and the tree broke. When the zookeeper tossed some meat into the cage, the cubs tore it to pieces. Then one cub looked up at Matt. It snarled and gave a fearful roar. Matt quickly changed his mind about wanting a tiger for a pet.

1. Why did Matt want to get a pet tiger?
   He thought the tiger cubs were cute and fun to watch.

2. What information did you use to answer question 1? Possible response: I read in the story that the cubs were cute. I know tiger cubs are cute because I’ve seen them on TV.

3. What conclusion did Matt draw after observing the tiger cubs again?
   He decided that tigers would not make good pets after all.

4. What did Matt see that helped him draw this conclusion?
   He saw that the little cubs had grown very big and strong. He saw that they could be very rough.

5. Do you think it’s a good idea to keep a big cat as a pet?
   Possible response: No. They are very strong. Even when big cats are playing, they can be dangerous.

Home Activity Your child read a story and drew conclusions. Take a walk through your neighborhood and discuss what you see and what conclusions you can draw. For example, if you see a house with a swing set, you can probably conclude that a child lives there.
**Plural Possessive Nouns**

**Directions** Write sentences about birds and their nests. Use the plural possessive form of each noun in your sentence. **Possible answers:**

1. nests
   
   We looked at the nests’ contents.

2. woodpeckers
   
   Woodpeckers’ nests are built in trees.

3. chicks
   
   We heard the chicks’ peeps.

4. weaver birds
   
   Weaver birds’ nests are strong.

5. children
   
   The children’s nature hike was a success.

**Directions** Write a sentence about something you like about birds and bird nests. Then write about something you do not like about them. Use at least one plural possessive noun in each sentence. **Possible answers:**

6. Birds’ nests are like works of art.

7. I wish birds’ nests weren’t so high up in trees.

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**School + Home**

**Home Activity** Your child learned how to use plural possessive nouns in writing. After watching a movie or TV program, have your child write a sentence about the show that uses at least one plural possessive noun.

**DVD•118 Plural Possessive Nouns**
**Consonant Blends**

**Directions** Read the story. Underline the words that begin with the three-letter blends **spl**, **squ**, **str**, and **thr**. Then write the words on the lines.

Peter threw on his sweatshirt and ran down the street to Eddie’s house. Eddie’s mom was taking them to a farm to pick pumpkins. The three of them piled into the car and Eddie’s mom headed for the thruway. When they reached the farm, the boys hurried to the pumpkin field.

Peter walked through the field and soon found a huge pumpkin. It took all his strength to lift it into his wagon. Eddie came up carrying an even larger pumpkin. Just then Eddie tripped and dropped his pumpkin. It split open on the ground, and splashed Peter with pulp and seeds! One seed struck Peter on the nose.

Meanwhile, Eddie’s mother was buying vegetables at the farm stand. She’d found some unusual squash with green and orange stripes. She’d found a funny scarecrow decoration stuffed with straw, too.

**Directions** Name each picture. Complete the word by writing the three-letter blend it begins with. Then on the lines under it, write two more words that begin with the same blend. **Answers will vary.**

- **thr** one
- **squ** irrel
- **str** ing
- **thread**
- **squir**
- **streak**

**Home Activity** Your child wrote words that begin with the three-letter blends spl (as in splash), squ (as in square), str (as in strike), and thr (as in throw). Play a riddle game with your child, giving clues such as “I am thinking of an animal with a bushy tail” and having your child name the answer and the blend it begins with.
Consonant Digraphs

### Missing Consonants
Write the missing consonants to make a list word.

1. He is your parent.  
   - father
2. You put your juice in it.  
   - pitcher
3. You receive one when you win a contest.  
   - trophy
   - English
5. You check this to see if you need a jacket.  
   - weather
6. You do this to a fish.  
   - catch

### Word Search
Circle the words in the puzzle. Look across, down, and diagonally.

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father chapter other alphabet watch
English weather catch fashion shrink
pitcher flash athlete trophy nephew
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**Home Activity**  
Your child has been learning to spell words with sh, th, ph, ch, and tch. Ask your child to name and spell the four most difficult list words.

**DVD•120 Consonant Digraphs**
Main Idea and Details

- The **topic** is what a piece of writing is all about.
- The **main idea** is the most important idea about the topic.
- **Details** are smaller pieces of information. They tell more about the main idea.

**Directions:** Read the following passage. Then complete the graphic organizer.

Bird watching is a good hobby. You don’t need expensive equipment to get started. Look for a bird book at the library or at a used bookstore. You’ll also need the right clothes. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes. Wear clothes that will protect you from the bright Sun. Finally, you’ll want to keep a record of the birds you see and tell when and where you see them. Some bird watchers call this record a “life list.” A simple notebook will do. Once you have all your equipment, go out and find some birds. Watch carefully. You may be surprised to see things you’ve never noticed before.

**Possible answers are given.**

1. **Topic**
   Bird watching is an enjoyable hobby.

2. **Main Idea**
   You don’t need much equipment to start bird watching.

3. **Detail**
   You’ll need a bird book.

4. **Detail**
   You’ll need comfortable shoes and clothing that protects you from the Sun.

5. **Detail**
   You’ll need a notebook for a life list.

**Home Activity** Your child identified the topic, main idea, and details in a passage. Watch a television show about nature together. Ask your child to make a graphic organizer like the one above to record information about the show.
Plural Possessive Nouns

Directions Write the correct possessive noun in ( ) to complete each sentence.

1. The (children’, children’s) hobby is watching birds.
   children’s

2. They use their (parent’s, parents’) field glasses.
   parents’

3. They saw some (owl’s, owls’) nests.
   owls’

4. They heard the (animals, animals’) sounds at night.
   animals’

Directions Write the possessive form of the underlined plural noun in each sentence.

5. The chicks cries were high and soft.
   chicks’

6. The babies parents protected them.
   babies’

7. The trees limbs were a good home for the bird family.
   trees’

Directions How is your home like a bird’s home? Write a sentence to answer. Use at least one plural possessive noun. Possible answer:

8. Birds’ nests and my home are warm and cozy.

School + Home

Home Activity Your child reviewed plural possessive nouns. Name three things you and your child saw or bought on a recent shopping trip. Have your child spell the plural possessive form of each item name.