PAT Teaching Resources Centre

Support student progress by connecting assessment with practice

PAT Reading: Skill Illustration

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Skill illustration: Substitute phonemes to make new words

Linked from: Decoding and concepts of print 60-69
PAT Reading descriptor: Replaces the last letter of a CVC word to change its meaning.
Key concepts and skills: Decoding and concepts of print

EXPLANATION
Students substitute the last letter on a simple CVC word to make a new word. The words are provided on audio, so students are required to distinguish the final sound of the new word, and match it to the letters provided in the options. This question therefore relies on their ability to decipher sounds in the context of a word, and a knowledge of the sounds made by the letters in the options. This question type can be made more difficult by asking students to decipher more complex sounds, such as consonant blends, using longer words, or asking for middle sounds. Students would be likely to find this question easier if they were seeing someone say the key words while also hearing them.

LINKED TEACHING ACTIVITIES
Phonemic awareness, the ability to hear the phonemes in words, is an essential part of learning to read. As their phonemic awareness skill develop, students learn to orally segment, blend and substitute phonemes in words. There are a variety of products available to promote students’ phonic and phonemic awareness skills, which take a variety of approaches. A Sound Way: Phonological Awareness Activities for Early Literacy by Elizabeth Love and Sue Reilly provides a detailed teaching guide with accompanying activities, each of which focusses on a particular phonological awareness skill. Teacher Activity Resource: A Little Learners Love Literacy resource by Maureen Pollard provides activities promoting students’ ability to read, write and spell, with a focus on engaging the students through games, activities and the use of characters. Milo's Birthday Surprise Activity Book by Maureen Pollard uses character-based phonological awareness activities to engage students. Sound Check: Sequencing Sounds for Spelling Success by Maureen Pollard is arranged into units that take students through the different components of phonological awareness. Making Sense of Phonics: The Hows and Whys by Isabel L. Beck provides a personal, detailed and research-based discussion of each component of phonics, as well as lesson plans focused on a particular learning intention.