

Leveraging the Reading Playground for English Language Learners

The Reading Playgrounds are online tools for facilitating independent practice through engaging games. We've identified the highest leverage games for English Language Learners (ELLs) in the *Countdown*, *Blast*, and *HD Word* Reading Playgrounds. We've also included general recommendations for supporting ELLs in the Reading Playgrounds.

Recommendation #1

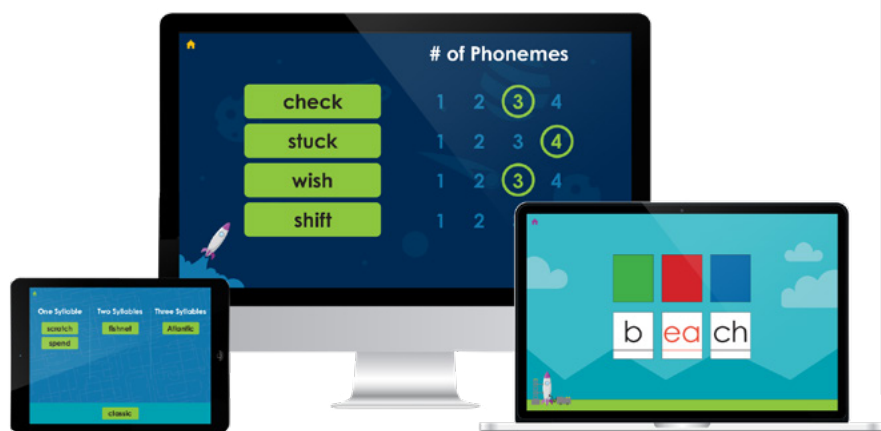
We highly recommend teachers model the first example within each game with ELLs in a whole-group or small-group setting. Then students can complete the next nine examples on their own. This will ensure students understand the game directions and are set up for independent success. Students could also complete the games with their small group or with a partner.

Recommendation #2

The first three games in each unit double as a formative assessment. These games provide important data for teachers and track student progress. We highly recommend all ELLs play these games in each unit. We recommend teachers model or work through the first example of each game with students.

We recommend specific games for ELLs within *Countdown*, *Blast*, and *HD Word*. The games we've recommended include one (or more) of the following pillars:

- Games that promote vocabulary development with icons and audio support
- Practice opportunities to listen to and read high-frequency words
- Icon supported phoneme awareness games, especially phoneme comparison activities



Countdown Recommended Games

Note: Almost all *Countdown* games include icon support and are highly recommended for ELLs. The list below includes games that appear most frequently with icons and that promote vocabulary development.

- Category #1 vs. Category #2
- Match Whole to Part
- Peel and Match: BSI
- Which Words Rhyme?
- Blending Onset and Rime
- Blending Syllables/Sounds
- Sort by Number of Sounds
- Letter Sound Match
- Letter-Sound Sort
- Complete It: CVC Words
- Unscramble It: CVC Words
- Choose the First Letter

Blast Recommended Games

- Phoneme vs. Phoneme
- Sort by Number of Sounds
- First Sound Match
- Which Phoneme Changed?
- Blending Phonemes
- Letter Sound Sort
- Letter-Sound Match
- Letter vs. Letter
- Sound Digraph Match
- Complete It
- Unscramble It
- Choose the Heart Word

HD Word Recommended Games

Note: *HD Word* includes 4 alternative units. Each of these units has 8 Reading Playground games. We recommend all 32 alternative unit games for ELLs.

- Touch the Vowel Sound
- Digraph sh, Digraph th, or Digraph ch
- Blending Phonemes
- Correct Syllable Division
- Complete It
- Sort by Number of Phonemes
- /or/ vs. /ar/ vs. /er/
- Phoneme vs. Phoneme
- Blending Syllables with Chunks