You can use a word chaining activity to help students practice their advanced phonemic awareness skills:

**SAY:**
- “strap”
- “Now, delete the first sound. What do you get?” A: trap
- “Next, delete the first sound again. What’s the new word?” A: rap
- “Now change the final sound /p/ to /sh/. What’s the new word?” A: rash

Continue giving oral prompts, asking students to add, delete, or substitute phonemes to create new words. You should be able to get all the way from strap to blotch by manipulating the phonemes!

`strap → trap → rap → rash → ash → lash → latch → batch → botch → blotch`

This activity can be done as a pure phonemic awareness task without showing students any letters. However, these advanced phoneme manipulation tasks can also be used with color tiles to make the phonemes more concrete and/or with letter tiles to help students encode and decode complex single-syllable words with digraphs, 2-sound blends, and 3-sound blends.

Visit [www.ReallyGreatReading.com](http://www.ReallyGreatReading.com) to see our popular color and letter tiles that can bring this activity to life for your students! You can also find this Word Math activity in our engaging **HD Word lessons**. HD Word is a fun and efficient instructional solution for preventative, supplemental Tier 1 instruction in just 15-25 minutes a day in Grades 2-5 or intervention for older students who have solid basic phonics skills but struggle with the more advanced features of words.