

Teaching ideas

Train Your Brain

Phonics/Spelling learning opportunities

To learn to read tricky words.

Organisation

Whole class or small group.

Teaching ideas

Click on the play button to begin. Choose **Introduction**,

Demonstration or go straight to **Choose words** to get started.

Introduction - explains simply that some words are tricky (they can't be worked out using the phonemes/graphemes that have already been learned) but that they can be easily learned.

Demonstration - gives an example of learning to read a particular tricky word.

To have a go at learning a particular word with a group of children, click on **Choose words** and then select the word that you want to learn.

Say the word out loud and ask children to repeat it.

Ask children to soundtalk the word and count out on their fingers how many phonemes there are in the word.

Click on **Sound Buttons** button to reveal sound buttons (one button for each phoneme/grapheme in the word). Did the children get the correct number of phonemes? Did they identify the phonemes correctly?

Ask children to look at each grapheme. Which graphemes are tricky ones that do not look the way children expect them to look?

Click on the **Tricky Bits** button to reveal which graphemes are tricky. Did the children correctly identify the tricky bit? Remind them that this bit doesn't look the way we expect it to but we simply need to train our brains up to remember that, in this word, things are a bit different.

Encourage children to soundtalk and blend the word as many times as possible.

Top tips

This activity is to support children to learn to *read* tricky words. Don't try to talk about or tackle *spelling* these words yet. Children need to learn to read these words first then, at a later stage in the planning for this phase, spelling of these words will be tackled.

Keep the activity fast and fun.

Help children to feel proud that they can easily learn these so called tricky words.

Ensure children have lots of opportunities for reading these words in as many other lessons as possible.

Display newly learned words in the classroom.

