

# BINGO! Teaching Consonant Blends to Basic Literacy Students

## Purpose

To present a phonics bingo game to use with basic literacy learners and possibly ELLs.

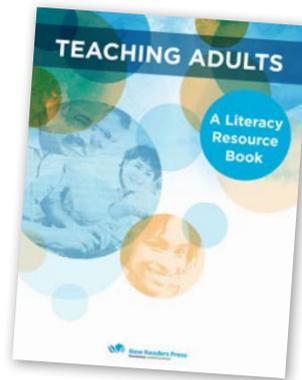
## Rationale

Learning vowels and consonants for reading can be a challenge, which is why tutors and instructors need tools to reinforce these types of lessons. Here's a way to use the beloved game of bingo to reinforce consonant blend sounds.

This type of bingo is useful for students learning to read, but it also may work with some ELLs. You can use the sample materials provided in this issue of *Notebook*, or you can follow the same idea to create your own bingo cards.

The bingo activity shared here is modified from *Teaching Adults: A Literacy Resource Book*, published by New Readers Press. The sidebar on this page has a link to order this book.

Note: This activity is designed for a tutoring situation where an instructor would have only one or two students. However, you can follow the steps here to design additional bingo cards and use the activity in a larger class setting.



Basic  
Literacy

## More Information

The phonics bingo lesson excerpted here is from *Teaching Adults: A Literacy Resource Book*. It is part of a five-book series from New Readers Press written for adult education instructors in different contexts. Find a short description of each book below. You can order any of these books from the New Readers Press website (<http://www.newreaderspress.com>).

### **Teaching Adults: A Literacy Resource Book**

Adult literacy tutors will learn essential background on characteristics of adult learners, along with techniques for teaching one-to-one or in group settings. There are 80+ ready-to-use activities that cover topics including reading fluency, reading comprehension, word recognition, grammar, and writing techniques.

### **Teaching Adults: A GED® Test Resource Book**

Learn how to help prepare adult learners to take and pass the GED test with more than 70 easy-to-follow activities to foster critical thinking. The guide provides detailed descriptions of all four tests along with useful appendices that include assessment targets, scoring rubrics, Webb's Depth of Knowledge, math tools, reproducible graphic organizers, and more.

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Bingo!

## More Information

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### Teaching Adults: A HiSET® Exam Resource Book

This comprehensive teacher resource guide will help instructors prepare students to take and pass the HiSET test. It includes tips for working with HiSET students and detailed descriptions of all five tests.

### Teaching Adults: ESL

This step-by-step resource guide provides instruction for teaching adult ELLs and includes 50+ ready-to-use activities for both one-to-one or group instruction. It also includes ideas to expand or adapt for higher or lower levels.

### Teaching Adults: Math

Whether you're an experienced math teacher or new to teaching math to adults, this resource guide will simplify your life as a math instructor. Separated into two parts, Part I includes the basics of math instruction, standards-based reform, overcoming math anxiety for both the student and the teacher, and the skills needed to transition to college and careers. In Part II, you'll find resources and classroom activities for basic math levels 0–5.9, ABE high math for levels 6.0–8.9, and ASE math levels 9.0–12.0.

## The Basic Activity

- Select the consonant blends you want students to work on.** Here are several consonant blends often taught in basic literacy:
  - bl
  - br
  - dr
  - fl
  - fr
  - gl
  - pr
  - sm
  - sn
  - squ
  - st
  - tw
- Divide two pieces of paper into squares like a bingo card (five columns across and five columns down).** Or, you can use the bingo cards we have created on page 7.
- On the first card, mark the center space “FREE.”** Then write a different consonant blend in each of the spaces. You can use some more than once. Again, you can also use the top bingo card sample on page 7 of this issue.
- Write the same blends on the second card but put them in different spaces.** Keep this card for yourself. We have followed this same rule for the second bingo card on the bottom of page 7 if you would rather use that card.
- Select a word that starts with each blend used on the bingo cards.** Write these 24 words on separate pieces of paper, and put them face down in a pile. Or, you can use the word cards on page 8 to match the consonant blends on *Notebook's* bingo cards.
- Ask the student to pick a word from the pile.** They should read it aloud and give the sound of the blend.
- Have the student cover the matching consonant blend on their own card with a square of blank paper or a coin.** You should do the same.
- The person who first covers five blends in a row (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally) wins and becomes the “caller” for the next game.**

## OTHER WAYS TO USE BINGO IN THE CLASSROOM

You can adapt the bingo idea for other areas that need practice. A few more bingo ideas for basic literacy include:

- diagraphs
- r-controlled vowels
- short vowels

In the ELL classroom and possibly basic literacy, you can use bingo with:

- letters of the alphabet
- new vocabulary words
- numbers (as used in traditional bingo)
- pictures, and when you say a word to match a picture, students mark off the matching square

In settings with more advanced fluency, you can use bingo as a way for students to get to know each other better.

Each square on the card can have an activity or experience that students may have in life. As you call out each activity or experience, students mark it on their card when applicable. When finished, students can talk about the experiences that they marked. Examples might include:

- have a child
- moved in the past year
- enjoy cooking
- speak three languages
- know how to dance

B	I	N	G	O
br	tw	bl	sn	st
sn	squ	fl	gl	pr
fr	dr	FREE ★ SPACE	sn	gl
squ	sw	fr	pr	tr
sm	br	tw	fl	br

B	I	N	G	O
sm	squ	fr	sw	sn
st	tw	fl	gl	sm
br	gl	FREE ★ SPACE	st	tw
sw	sn	fl	pr	squ
pr	fr	dr	tr	br

brick broom twig twenty

black start stop small

snow snap flower flat

pray pride frog draw

dry glow glad square

squash swim swing tree