

Consonant Clusters

This activity was developed by Steve Cooke from the Ethnic Minority Achievement Team in Nottingham and has been adapted slightly to fit into this format.

The webaddress for this activity is:

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/consonantclusters.pdf>

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COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

Supporting a cooperative network of teaching professionals throughout the European Union to develop and disseminate accessible teaching materials in all subject areas and for all ages.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project publishes a catalogue of activities plus lists in selected subject areas, and a newsletter available on the internet: "PAPERCLIP".

*These activities were influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in mixed classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening and other formative assessment.

*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in mother tongue and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

Consonant Clusters

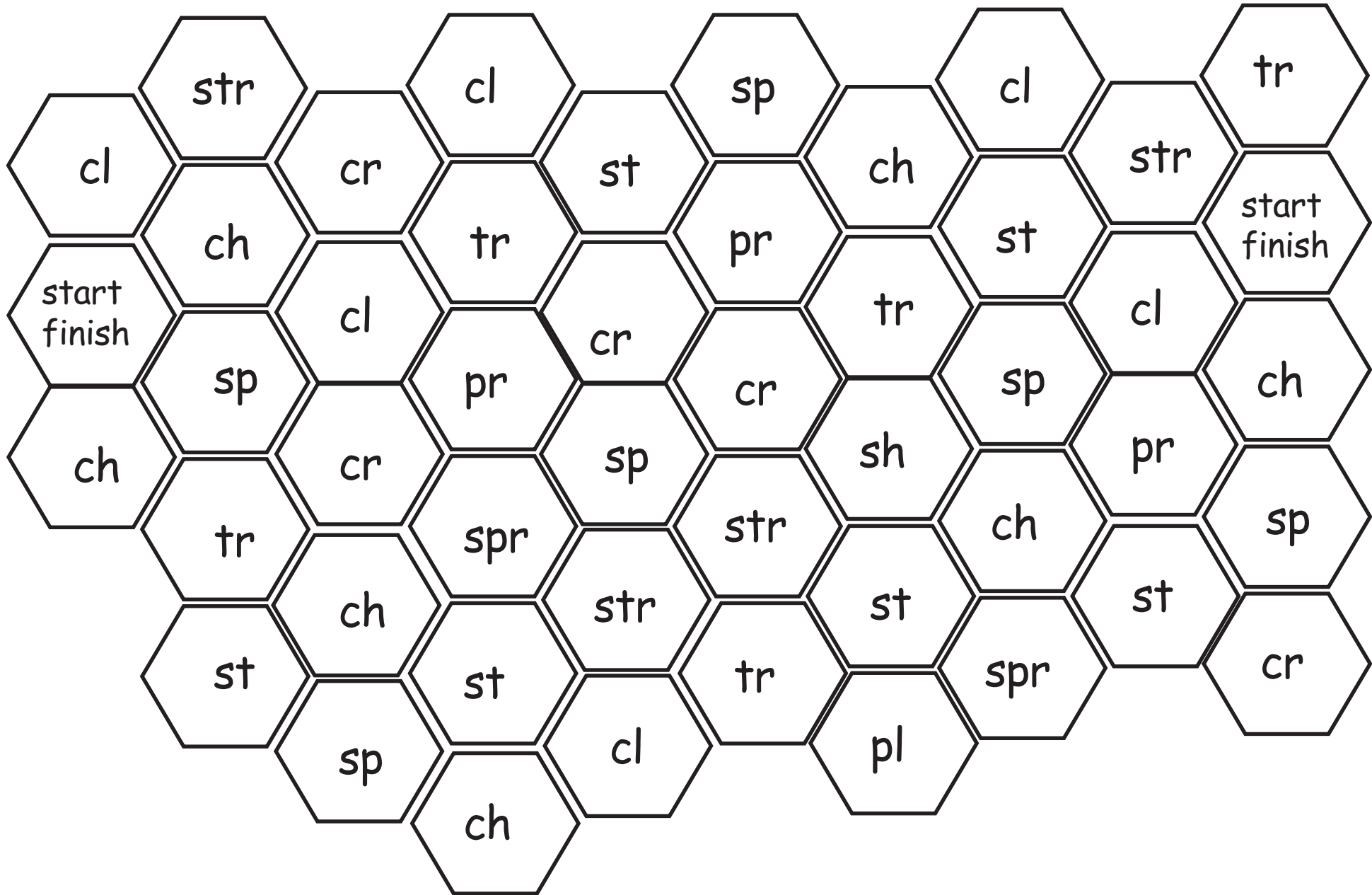
How to prepare the game

Enlarge the game board to A3, and mount on card or laminate. Print the cards in two pastel colours and cut them out. It is up to you whether you enlarge the cards too or keep them small. If you laminate the cards players can write their chosen word on them with felt tips and rub this off at the end of the game.

How to Play Consonant Clusters

This game works best with four players: two against two. Players choose different sides of the board to start. They can travel one block at a time in any direction other than back from where they started. They take turns to pick a card, and decide on their word that agrees with the card and contains a cluster on a block next to where they are. They write the word down, either on the card or on a piece of paper. The other team must agree that the word is correct. They can then place their card on the block. The team to reach the Start/Finish block on the opposite side wins.

Consonant Clusters Board



Consonant Clusters Cards

The cards contain the following text prompts:

- a food
- a kind of food
- a kind of tree or plant
- something you wear
- something green
- a girl's name
- something you see outside
- a kind of toy
- something you find in the garden
- something soft
- something you drink
- something very big
- something you drink
- something hard
- something red or blue
- something soft
- a kind of transport
- a girl's name
- something you can eat
- something long
- something that smells good
- the name of an animal
- something you can eat
- the name of an animal
- something long
- something you see outside
- something you wear
- something you find in the house
- something in the classroom
- a boy's name
- something you see outside
- something very small
- something wet
- something you find in the kitchen
- something you find in the house
- something you find in the kitchen
- something very small
- something soft
- a literacy word
- a kind of toy
- something green
- something soft
- something you wear
- a kind of fruit or vegetable
- something you find in the garden
- something in the classroom
- something you wear
- a kind of tree or plant
- a kind of game
- something you can eat
- something in the classroom
- something you wear
- something hard