

Units of Sound PLUS

Introduction

Units of Sound PLUS videos are an easy to use series of seven 'drill' videos that will enhance your Units of Sound sessions and broaden the range of students who can benefit from the program.

Who are the Units of Sound+ materials for?

Units of Sound Plus adds further support for students who are working at the beginning of **Stage One**, or for those not quite ready for cvc reading. The videos provide the 'drills' to bridge the gap between insecure letter-sound correspondence and cvc reading.

Materials Overview

Picture, Sound, Letter (PSL) videos: A series of four videos taking the student from naming alphabet pictures to giving the sound at the beginning of the picture and linking it with the name of the letter – thus learning all the alphabet names and sounds.

Word endings (WE) videos: A series of three videos allowing the student to develop skills in reading common two letter word endings before moving on to the more usual cvc words. The word endings are given in vowel order, consonant order and shuffled to further develop automaticity.

Videos Good Practice

- Use the videos with all students who start Units of Sound in stage 1.
- If a student is placed between pages 1-12 on stage 1 of Units of Sound, work through the videos before starting Units of Sound at all.
- If a student completes the videos easily and quickly you can start Units of Sound confidently.
- Do not think you have to complete the whole of a video in one session initially.
- The student should always be working comfortably. If they do not know the answer, then continue with the video and the sound clip will provide a model answer for the student to follow.

Videos: general guide

- Initially, the videos will be introduced by the tutor with no time pressure on the student at all.
- Each slide includes a sound clip.
- The videos are based on power point slides and so you can pause on each slide allowing the student time to provide the answer.
- Once the student can give an accurate response to each slide, the tutor can gradually increase the rate for each slide until no pause is necessary and the student is responding before the sound clip plays.
- At this point, let the student practise the videos independently.
- For a student who needs to go very slowly initially, play the whole video through first so that the student already has a model to follow.
- You can also do these videos with a group.

PSL: how to use

1. PSL – picture

- The student names each of the 26 alphabet pictures as soon as they see the picture.
- After a few seconds the audio clip plays the name of the picture.
- The tutor checks the student is saying the target word. Help the student to identify the target word if needed e.g. igloo.
- Once the student can say the picture names accurately, start with the next video.
- Continue the video drill until the student can name all the pictures before hearing the sound clip without any pauses.

2. PSL- picture – sound

- Only use this video once the student has reached accuracy for the PSL- picture video.
- The student is asked to name the picture and give the first sound of the picture name e.g. apple – a.
- The tutor should check that the correct sound is given for each picture.
- Once the student can complete the video for accuracy, start the next video.
- Continue the video drill until the student can complete it without pauses.

3. PSL- picture – sound – letter

- Only use this video once the student has reached accuracy for the PSL- picture – sound video.
- The student is asked to name the picture and give the first sound of the picture name and then the letter that makes that sound eg apple – a - A.
- The tutor should check that the correct response is given for each picture.
- Once the student can complete the video for accuracy, start the next video.
- Continue the video drill until the student can complete it without pauses.
- Once this video has been completed for accuracy, start the word endings video.

4. PSL- shuffled

- This video repeats the tasks from PSL – picture – sound – name, but the slides are shuffled and so no longer in alphabetic order.
- Continue the video drill until the student can complete it without pauses.

Word Endings: How to use

5. WE – vowel order

- Start this video once the PSL picture-sound-letter video is accurate.
- There are 50 slides of word endings to read as soon as the student sees them.
- In the vowel order video the student practices -ab, -ad – ag, -al, -am, -an, -ap etc before moving on to the next vowel.
- To begin, you may want to practise just one or two vowels in a session until the student's automaticity improves.
- It is not unusual to find one vowel that a student finds harder to master than the others. It is easy to slide the video to the starting point to practise a particular vowel.
- The single vowel slides from PSL eg apple – a – A, are used at the start of each vowel sequence to provide extra support.
- Once the student can complete the video for accuracy, start the next video.

6. WE – consonant order

- The single vowel slides are no longer included.
- In this sequence the consonant stays the same and the vowel changes, such as -ab, -eb, -ib, -ob, -ub.
- This gives practice in switching vowel sounds quickly.
- Once the student can complete the video for accuracy, start the next video.

7. WE – shuffled

- The same 50 slides are used but this time they are in a shuffled order.
- This increases the demand on the student as both the vowel and consonant are changing each slide.

Using Units of Sound alongside the word ending videos.

- As a rule, you can start Units of Sound stage 1 page 1 once a student can complete the word ending videos for accuracy.
- Continue to practise at least one of the videos in each lesson alongside Units of Sound until the students has reached automaticity.
- If a student struggles with Units of Sound, return to the word ending videos and continue the drills to improve automaticity before returning to Units of Sound.
- Stage 1 p1-12 of Units of Sound cover all the cvc words for reading and spelling. Students who need to start with the videos should be put on overlap for reading and should repeat these spelling pages as well. This will give them a firm foundation to build on for the remainder of their Units of Sound work.