

## Information for Teachers

### Combining Consonants Guide

#### Introduction

The Consonants, Blends and Clusters Series books 1-10 were first written in the year 2000. Books 11-14 were added later to introduce the verb endings 'ed' and 'ing'. The reason for the addition of these books was to keep the progression of teaching compatible with the National Literacy Strategy of 1998.

We had a large reprint of all the books in June 2007.

Then in September 2007 the Department for Education introduced its phonic teaching programme 'Letters and Sounds'. This document recommended that the teaching of the verb endings 'ed' and 'ing' should be delayed until Phonic Phase 6, i.e. after all the vowel phonemes and their graphemes had been taught, and not as in the National Literacy Strategy.

Now that we are coming to the end of our 2007 print run, we have decided to have only five of the original books revised and reprinted. As well as revisions to the text, these five books also have enhanced pictures.

The revised books are:

#### Titles

Book	Revised title	Original title
1	<i>The Fox Cub</i>	<i>Sniff, sniff</i>
2	<i>Two Chicks</i>	<i>Two Chicks</i>
3	<i>Down the Well</i>	<i>The Small Red Ball</i>
4	<i>The Red Spotty Cloth</i>	<i>The Red Spotty Cloth</i>
5	<i>In the Ditch</i>	<i>Catch</i>

## **Aims**

The aims of this series of books are:

- to use as many words as possible which have adjacent consonants at their beginning or their end.
- to distinguish, in the information at the back of the book, which of these adjacent consonants constitute consonant digraphs, i.e. are two consonants combined to represent one sound, and which are single graphemes to be blended together.
- to give children practice in blending these adjacent consonants together always in a left to right order all through the word for reading.
- to use words containing simple vowel digraphs from Phonic Phase 3 to give children practice in reading them within words. The vowel graphemes 'ay, ou, ea' are also included.
- to introduce the difficult irregular high-frequency words 'what, there, where, when, some' to stay in line with Phonic Phase 4 of Letters and Sounds.

## **Vocabulary used in each book**

Book 1: *The Fox Cub*

Phase 2: a on in is it of up can top pit mum cub get log run his and off dogs pick until sudden

Phase 3: Kevin fox Chuff push long with

Phase 4: smell glad stop grass across drops end help fast sniffing

Vowels: day see deep need teeth free too for out after

Tricky: the to into onto he be they are all her one

Others: Lotty very falls

Book 2: *Two Chicks*

Phase 2: a on in of up at not his hen run and puts bobs pick back rock duck cannot

Phase 3: then them will chick

Phase 4: from swim grass trick clucks bring help pond jump  
Vowels: day plays away again sees cheep too look down out  
water other  
Tricky: the to go he she they are her one two  
Other: sorry middle falls

Book 3: *Down the Well*

Phase 2: a on in is it of up sad red not him top but get off runs  
hits pull kicks picks bucket  
Phase 3: Kevin will well yells with then push bang sitting  
Phase 4: flat grass drops clang help bump next jumps  
Vowels: day play sees tree too for down out  
Tricky: the to no he she they her one oh  
Others: Wellington Lotty by ball wall falls

Book 4: *The Red Spotty Cloth*

Phase 2: a on is it of up at can not big red rat get rid his and  
off cats puts pull rabbit kitten  
Phase 3: then them will with path  
Phase 4: glad cloth past last pond spotty stuck thinks  
Vowels: way sees Bean cool under  
Tricky: the to he she are come what where again  
Others: Jelly hedgehog wants going goes very

Book 5: *In the Ditch*

Phase 2: a in is it of has his him hut not mud run put off and  
cats back rabbit cannot  
Phase 3: Jet then shed rush bushes much bangs long  
Phase 4: grass fresh next help jumps catch ditch hutch  
Vowels: away see asleep Bean eating eaten look for door out

Tricky: the to no he they have some oh so there where

Others: Jelly hungry empty falls opens goes

The vocabulary for each book is printed on the back inside cover of each book.

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