

Reading Long Words

Flexible Syllable Strategy Repair Lab

When a long word will not come, try it another way: short vowel or long (riv|al? ri|val!), then "uh" (ov|en), then chunk by chunk. A rule is only a first try. The real word decides.

ri val

Try riv|al: not a word. Try ri|val: yes! The first try was wrong, so flex.



IN THIS FREE SAMPLE

- Lesson 1: try short, then long
- Warm-up, model and words to read together
- A short-or-long task and a chunk map
- An original story with reading strips
- Answers for every activity
- For learners who get stuck on long words

1 Try a chunking

2 Sound it out

3 Is it a real word?

4 If not, flex and try again

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · About 15 minutes a session · Supplemental practice, not a diagnosis or a full program

How this book works

Three lessons, four short sessions each.

This book is for a learner who knows the usual ways to split a word but gets stuck when the first try is wrong. The routine: try a chunking, sound it out, check whether it is a real word, and if not, flex and try again. Syllable rules are useful first tries, but many words break them: the real word decides. A word the learner has never heard can still be right: check it in the sentence, with a grown-up or in a dictionary.

Lesson 1 tries the first vowel short, then long (riv|er, ri|val). Lesson 2 tries "uh" (the short u sound in up) when neither short nor long makes a word (ov|en, hon|ey). Lesson 3 repairs long words chunk by chunk (el|e|phant).

EACH LESSON: FOUR PAGES

Learn	A warm-up, the routine, a model word (I do) and words to read together (We do).
Practice	Activities with help, and sentences to read aloud.
On your own	New words the learner has not seen in this book. The partner only marks.
Read it for real	An original story, questions, and words to spell.

MARKING

Right · Fixed it (the learner corrected themselves: count it as right) · Needed help. Note what went wrong, not just that it did.

NOT A TEST OR A DIAGNOSIS

Supplemental practice. It does not screen for or diagnose dyslexia or any reading difficulty, and it is not a full reading program. Progress depends on the learner, the time spent and the teaching around it.

PRONUNCIATION

In US English, unstressed chunks often say "uh" whatever their letters (the a in rival, the e in elephant). Accept the reading that is right for the learner's community; the goal is a real word that fits the sentence.

Try short, then long

rival, river, siren, credit: the first try can be wrong. Flex the vowel.

Before you start: splits two-syllable words like rab|bit and ti|ger.

WARM-UP

Two-syllable words. Mark right, fixed it or needed help.

rabbit



tiger



camel



THE ROUTINE

1. Try a chunking
2. Sound it out
3. Is it a real word?
4. If not, flex and try again

I DO · THE ADULT READS ALOUD

ri val
✓ ✓

Try riv|al: short i, "riv-ul". Is it a word? No. Flex: try ri|val, long i, "rye-vul". Yes: a rival is someone you compete against. The first try was wrong, and that is fine.

WE DO · READ TOGETHER AND DRAW A SCOOP UNDER EACH CHUNK

river

siren

credit

rider

ADULT: WATCH FOR

Giving up after one try, or keeping a try that is not a real word. Say: "Is that a word you know? Try the vowel the other way."

Practice: Try short, then long

Work with your partner. Help is fine here.

A Read each word. Did the first vowel end up short or long? Circle one.

digit

short

long

crisis

short

long

clever

short

long

vocal

short

long

lizard

short

long

cubic

short

long

liver

short

long

cider

short

long

B Map it: write each chunk in a box the way the word is said.

wizard

--	--

chunk

lilac

--	--

chunk

never

--	--

chunk

sonic

--	--

chunk

C Read each sentence aloud. Your partner marks the circle when every long word is right.

1. The rider crossed the river.

☐

2. My rival is very clever.

☐

On your own: Try short, then long

New words first, then words at work. Use the routine; your partner only marks.

A Read each word aloud. Try one way, check, flex. Your partner marks how it went.

		right	fixed it	needed help
1	shiver	☐	☐	☐
2	civil	☐	☐	☐
3	savor	☐	☐	☐
4	minor	☐	☐	☐
5	skater	☐	☐	☐
6	fatal	☐	☐	☐
7	meter	☐	☐	☐

Words right (fixed it counts as right): _____ / 7

B Read each sentence with both words. Circle the word that makes sense.

1. The cold made me ____.

shiver

savor

2. The ____ glided across the ice.

minor

skater

3. A ____ is a little longer than a yard.

meter

fatal

Read it for real

Read the story aloud. Answer the questions. Spell two words.

The Siren by the River

A siren sounded across the river. A rider on a bike stopped to look. A boat had a small crisis: its motor had stopped. A clever girl on the bank threw a rope, and the crew pulled the boat to safety. Later the town gave her credit in the paper. Her rival from school came to say well done.

READING STRIPS • READ EACH LINE THREE TIMES; TICK A BOX EACH TIME

a siren sounded | across the river

☐☐☐

a clever girl | on the bank

☐☐☐

gave her credit | in the paper

☐☐☐

1. What was wrong with the boat?

2. How did the girl help?

Spell it: your partner says a word. You say its chunks or parts, then write it.

1. _____

2. _____

PARTNER: TICK EACH LONG WORD READ CORRECTLY

☐ siren☐ river☐ rider☐ crisis☐ clever☐ credit☐ rival

Lesson 1 answers

Try short, then long

Warm-up	rabbit, tiger, camel
I do	rival (ri val)
We do	river (riv er), siren (si ren), credit (cred it), rider (ri der)
Sentences	"The rider crossed the river." "My rival is very clever."
Watch for	Giving up after one try, or keeping a try that is not a real word. Say: "Is that a word you know? Try the vowel the other way."
Practice A	digit: short; crisis: long; clever: short; vocal: long; lizard: short; cubic: long; liver: short; cider: long
Practice B	wiz ard (closed + r-controlled); li lac (open + closed); nev er (closed + r-controlled); son ic (closed + closed)
On your own A	shiver (shiv er); civil (civ il); savor (sa vor); minor (mi nor); skater (ska ter); fatal (fa tal); meter (me ter).
On your own B	1 shiver • 2 skater • 3 meter
Story	1. Its motor had stopped. 2. She threw a rope and the crew pulled the boat to safety.
Dictation	river (riv er), rival (ri val)

THE FULL BOOK

The full Flexible Syllable Strategy Repair Lab has two more lessons (when neither short nor long works, try "uh"; then repair long words chunk by chunk), coach tasks, a quick check, a final check with ten new words, word cards and a progress record.