

Word Attack Pack

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Materials

- Container
- Materials that will help students learn words and hone decoding skills, including the following:
 - Word cards and tiles
 - Game pieces
 - Plastic letters
 - Letter stamps—upper- and lowercase
 - Vowel pattern cards—*cvc*, *vcv*— for both long and short vowel patterns
 - Consonant digraph and consonant blend cards
 - Prefix and suffix cards
 - Compound word cards
 - Punctuation cards
 - Word search books
 - File folder games
 - Dice featuring different vowel patterns or blends
 - Magnets labeled with syllables, consonant blends, and vowel patterns
 - Word lists to study or create

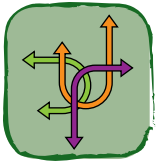


Description

Word attack skills give individuals the ability to convert graphic symbols into intelligible language. Examples of word attack skills are as follows:

- Seeing the component parts of words
- Blending those parts into new words
- Recognizing syllable patterns
- Recognizing symbols for consonant sounds
- Recognizing symbols for vowel sounds
- Recognizing capital letters (uppercase) and knowing when to use them
- Recognizing punctuation and how it affects reading for meaning and expression
- Recognizing the use of space to mark word breaks and paragraphs

A *word attack pack* is simply a collection of games and activities that students can use during free time, centers, or even at home to practice these skills. You can make the box available for any learner or you can offer the activities only to certain students who need extra support. Boxes also can be made for families and activities can be assigned as homework.



Directions

Gather games, tools, books, and worksheets that will help struggling learners gain new skills and refine acquired ones. Depending on how many materials are in your pack, you may need to put different activities into individual plastic bags. Place an index card in each bag with directions on how to use the materials. In some cases, it may even be helpful to include a checklist or data-collection tool in the box so you (or the student) can track their performance and progress (e.g., “I matched ___ letters correctly today”).



Examples

In a third-grade school classroom, the teacher was reviewing prefixes and suffixes with her students. She made dice using small pieces of cardboard and wrote different prefixes and suffixes on one die and root words on another. The students had to roll the dice and write down as many word combinations as they could in 2 minutes. Then the teacher placed the students in small groups and asked them to think of other, similar activities that they could use to learn about prefixes and suffixes. Each group developed one activity, introduced it to peers, and put it in a whole-class word attack pack.

Price, a student with learning disabilities, needed extra practice with decoding. Ms. Govak, his teacher, made him a word attack pack to use at home, allowing Price to play word attack games for 20 minutes as an alternative to completing all of the required homework. Because Price loved anything related to paleontology, Ms. Govak included plenty of materials—including word finds and word sorts—using the letters from different dinosaur names.



Reference/ Recommended Reading

Walpole, S., & McKenna, M.C. (2004). *The literacy coach's handbook: A guide to research-based practice*. New York: Guilford Press.



Vendors

ClassroomWordGames.com

<http://www.classroomwordgames.com>

For a small fee, teachers can download software to create word searches, crossword puzzles, and other teaching tools.

Wholesale Board Games

<http://www.wholesaleboardgames.com>

Popular word games (e.g., Apples to Apples, Boggle, Scrabble) at wholesale prices



Web Sites

Merriam-Webster

<http://www.merriam-webster.com>

Tools and resources for students and teachers, as well as daily word challenges and a host of word games

Readinga-z.com

http://www.readinga-z.com/more/reading_strat.html

An array of resources related to reading, including a list of word attack strategies

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