

Letter Sound /s/

Introducing the letter sound: Use a story such as the one below, along with the action.

Sam has a dog called Samson. One sunny morning, Sam takes Samson for a walk down by the stream. While Samson snuffles about in the grass, Sam looks around. He sees a swan swimming past a snail on a stone. He also spots a toadstool, some spiders, a small mouse and a bird on her nest. Sam picks up a stick and throws it for Samson to fetch. Samson chases after it and sniffs around for the stick in the grass. Suddenly, he starts barking, "Woof, woof, woof!" Sam skips over to see what Samson has found. In front of Samson is a large, spotty snake. It is sitting up and hissing, "Ssssss!" Sam grabs hold of Samson and the snake slithers slowly away.

Action: The children weave their hand like a snake, while making a continuous /ssssss/ sound.

Letter formation: Explain how the letter for /s/ is written. The children form the letter in the air and then practise writing it in their books. They write over the dotted letters and then try again, using the starting dots.

Blending: Say the sound /s/ with the children and encourage them to point to the dot under the <s> in their books as they do so. Then do some auditory blending. Call out the sounds in a word and ask the class to blend them together and say the word. For example, say the sounds in *sun* – /s-u-n/ – and encourage the children to call out 'sun'.

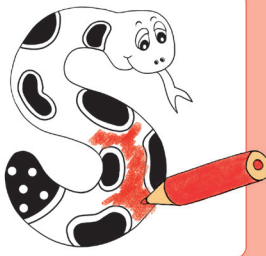
Identifying the sounds: Look at the four pictures at the bottom of the lesson page. Say the word for each one with the class: *sun*, *spider*, *snail*, *tree*. The children listen for the word that does not start with the sound /s/ and cross out its picture [*tree*].

Developing accuracy and fluency: The children take home a sound book to read with their parents and bring back the next day.

Further ideas: Sing the /s/ song from Jolly Songs. Make snake shapes from dough or modelling clay. Paint <s> snakes cut out of paper or card and make mobiles or a collage. Pin up the /s/ section of the Wall Frieze.

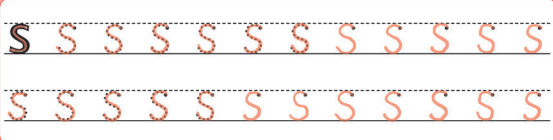
Answers







ACTION
Weave your hand in an <s> shape like a snake, and say ssssss.





Say the word for each picture. Three have a /s/ sound at the beginning. Cross out the one that does not.






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