# Segmenting Phonemes

**Objective:** Students will learn how to segment phonemes in spoken words.

**Review:** Words are made up of sounds; identifying beginning, ending, and middle sounds in words

## I DO

1. **Define:** Phoneme segmentation is the ability to break a spoken word into separate speech sounds.

2. **Introduce:** Say, "Today, we will listen to a word, then break the word apart, and say it sound by sound." Display three felt squares.

3. **Model Blending Phonemes:**

- Say the target word and use it in a sentence: *make*. My dad will make a cake.
- Say, "I will **Stretch and Shrink** the word *make* to listen for each sound in the word:  /mmmāāāk/."
- Next, use **Touch and Say,** touching a felt square for each sound: /m/ /ā/ /k/. Point out there are three sounds in the word *make*.
- Repeat the modeling process with the words *zoo* and *job*.

## WE DO

4. **Guided Practice:** Tell students it is now their turn to try some words with you. Give students a new two- or three-phoneme word. Stretch and shrink the word together. Display one felt square for each sound. Touch and say the sounds together, and point out the number of sounds in the word. Provide prompts and feedback as needed to segment the phonemes.

**Words for Practice:** *hay, pie, seek*

## YOU DO

5. **Individual Practice:** Tell students, "Now it's your turn." Give students new words to try independently while other students silently listen.

**Words for Practice:** *rock, shine, smile, free*

Once children are accurate with phoneme segmentation, use the following activities on ReadingUniverse.org for independent practice.

- Phoneme Detective
- Count the Sounds

| **Manipulatives:** | **Strategy for the Lesson:** |
|---|---|
| Slinky | Stretch and Shrink |
| Felt squares | Touch and Say |

**About This Plan:**

1. *You can adapt this lesson to fit into your district's planning template.*

2. *Use this lesson when introducing phoneme segmentation. The strategy incorporates manipulatives as a scaffold to explicitly teach the skill. These should be removed once students show an understanding of how to perform the task accurately.*