



# Test Your Phonics - 3 Classroom Activities

Teachers,

Test your students to assess which phonics sounds/spelling students need more practice with.

In this document there are three classroom activities to help you assess your students.

You will need the following:

- For Activity 1: You tube Video - *Test Your Phonics Revision Video*
- For Activity 2: Phonics Flashcards for 'The Traders Game'  
(small size printed at x4 per A4 paper, cut up and laminated)
- For Activity 3: Phonics Flashcards printed at full A4 size for 'Phonics-Word Association Game'

Find the video on the homepage at [www.theranterino.com](http://www.theranterino.com). It's in the youtube playlist for *Off the Wall Phonics*.

The flashcards are in the Teachers' Section.

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# Activity 1: You tube video *Test Your Phonics*

Have you worked your way through all the *Off the Wall Phonics* videos, worksheets and classroom activities? Want to test you students?

- 1) Tell the whole class you are going show them a video. Then tell them they will be playing a game to see if they can say the sounds they see in the video. Show them the video but tell them that they cannot say any of the sounds. Not yet! They must watch only and be prepared to be play the game later!
- 2) Now split your students up into small groups of 4-8 students. (Whatever size your class is, split into three roughly equal groups). Hand out a piece of blank paper to every student in the class.
- 3) Choose one group randomly and tell them they must now watch the video but this time try and shout out aloud the sounds they see. Take the blank paper away from this group of students, for the time being.
- 4) Tell the other two groups to also watch the video and listen to the first group shouting out the various sounds. The rest of the class should note down on the blank paper any of the phonics sounds they believe the group say incorrectly.
- 5) Whole-class feedback/discussion on which phonics sounds they think the group said incorrectly. (Make this part of the process competitive but light-hearted!)
- 6) Repeat the above process with the remaining two groups and give the group with the least mistakes the title WINNERS! The third and final group should probably be winners because they will have had the benefit of watching/listening to the previous two groups. So pack that third group with some of your weaker students, boost their confidence!

By the end of the lesson the students will have had a jolly good drilling of the phonics. This is nothing but a fun form of drilling, but to the students it will have all seemed like a game.

# Activity 2: The Traders Game

Essential that you have a minimum 3 sets of laminated and cut up  
*Off the Wall Phonics* flashcards printed at x4 per A4 paper.

The aim of The Traders Game is to get students moving around the classroom trying to find trading cards they need to complete a full set of 5 unique phonics cards. If you follow the activity stages below, the students in your class will spend most of the activity reading, listening to and repeating many phonics sounds. The Traders Game is, in essence, nothing but a highly-convoluted phonics drilling session. Don't tell the students that though. They think it's a fun game!

1. Tell your class that today they are going to play a game. Explain that the aim of the game is to collect 5 unique phonics cards which share **NONE** of the same letters (e.g. **-bl**, **-gr**, **-tch**, **-oa**, **-y**). Once a student has collected 5 unique phonics cards he/she can sit down quietly and be awarded bonus points accordingly. But how do students collect 5 unique phonics cards??
2. First, give each student a set of 5 cards. Within the 5 card set the student starts with only 3 unique phonics cards plus 2 copies (e.g. **-oa**, **-ch**, **-bl** + **-bl** + **-bl**). For this stage of the activity, it is important that the teacher has already made enough small sets of 5 cards so that every student will have their own set of phonics cards which have one phonics sound duplicated twice.
3. Explain to students that they will have to mingle and move around the classroom and try and swap their duplicate cards for unique cards. Unfortunately for them, there is one important rule to this game. Students cannot carry their cards in their hands and look at them as they mingle looking to swap their duplicates. They must hold their card in their hands behind their backs as they try and do verbal deals. For this part of the activity to work, students can either a) use L1, or b) be pre-taught the following phrases: *Do you want a (-bl) ? / What have you got? / Can I swap a (-bl) ?* Either way, they will need to clearly state to fellow students which phonics cards they have and want to swap without looking again at their cards. So give them a minute before they start to mingle to memorise their cards.
4. Let the whole class mingle freely, trying to do deals until half the class have sat down with unique card sets.
5. Now teacher can take a set of 5 cards from a student and ask for one word for each phonics sound in the set. Award points accordingly. Repeat several times with random students.

# Activity 3: Phonics-Word Association Game

## A4-sized Off the Wall Phonics Flashcards

1. Make sure students are sitting at individual desks, in rows, just like in exam formation.
2. Hand out a piece of blank paper to every student. Now place one of the A4-sized Off the Wall Phonics flashcards randomly, and face down, on each student's desk. Tell them they are not allowed to turn over the card and look at it yet.
3. Now explain that each student will have 20 seconds in which to turn the flashcard over, look at the phonics sound on the card and then write down a word they know which contains the sound. Model this using any flashcard.
4. After 20 seconds the class will pause and each student will pass their card to the next student in their row (set up the flow in a snake-like formation as can be seen in the diagram).
5. Repeat the above, with the various flashcards snaking up and down each row until a full circuit has been completed. The teacher should take the flashcard from the last student and take it around to the first student.
6. Use as many of the flashcards as you choose, focusing on any of the sounds you think the students may still be struggling with.
7. Collect in the students' papers and assess which students need more work on phonics-word recognition. For students who struggle with this activity, get them watching the *Off the Wall Phonics* videos again at home.

