

Reading by Analogy (Compare / Contrast)

What is “Reading By Analogy” and why is it important?

“Reading By Analogy” (Cunningham, 1991) is a strategy that helps children practice reading words by identifying spelling patterns in them. Students use their knowledge of sight words with particular spelling patterns to read unknown words containing the same spelling pattern. Students learn to look at unfamiliar words and compare the parts of those words to parts of words they already know. They then decode the unfamiliar words by analogy.

How can I use “Reading by Analogy” with my child?

To begin, make sure your child can read the sight words that you will use with this strategy. These include: *he, went, her, can, car, in, at, then, it, is, let, fish, sun, big, and and.*

Write the following five key words on index cards: *he, went, her, can, car.* Tell your child that you will show him a word with two syllables that has parts which are similar to the words on the cards you have made. Encourage your child to pick two words which match parts of the targeted word. When your child finds the match, he can write the two words above the targeted word. He then can compare the two words. For example, your child looks at the similar words and says, “This is *can*, then this must be *ban*. If this is *her*, this must be *ter*. When I put those two syllables together, I get the word *banter*.”

To make the syllable changes visible to your child, ask him to draw an arrow from the *b* in *ban* to the *c* in *can* and from the *t* in *ter* to the *h* in *her*.)

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c a n   h e r
  ↑     ↑
(b) a n (t) e r
  
```

Write the next five words (*in, at, the, it, is*) on index cards to be included in the child’s “Word Bank.” Practice decoding words with those patterns and sounds as well as the five previous words.

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h e   i n
  ↑   ↑
(c) r e (t) i n
  
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Write the last five words on index cards (*let, fish, sun, big, and*). Practice decoding words that contain the patterns and sounds of the fifteen cards in the word bank.

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c a n   f i s h
  ↑     ↑
(c) l a n (n) i s h
  
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Finally, remove the word cards and have students think of their own words to use to decode unknown words.

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b u s   h e r
  ↑     ↑
(c) l u s (t) e r
  
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Reading by Analogy Practice Words

I.

he	went	her	can	car
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banter charter defer ferment regent

barber canter merger tangent garment

meter garter repent panther serpent

II.

he	went	her	can	car
in	at	then	it	is

bitter cretin jerkin hermit fitter

batten remit margin latter blister

render ginger vermin Berlin charter

III.

he	went	her	can	car
in	at	then	it	is
let	fish	sun	big	and

hunger misspent shetland decent

banish clannish barter punish

disband blunder trigger farther

IV.

own	word	store
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blender pungent jasmine igloo whisper

vermin rattan gusset mango wiggle

viscous russet delight veto finder