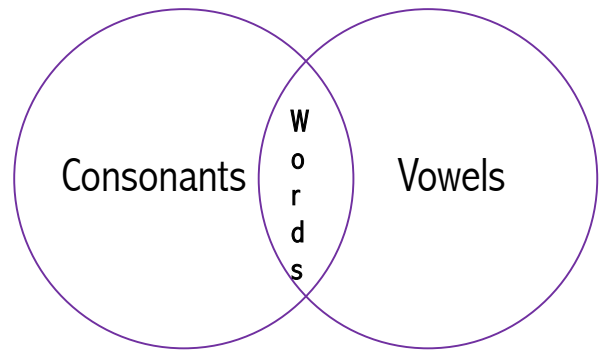


TASK MAPPING: WHAT IT TAKES TO READ THE WORD “CAT”

Overview

What does it take to learn new words? As tutors, and fluent speakers of the English language, we have a firm grasp on the nuances of putting together a few consonants and vowels to create a word. In our frequent use of the language, we can sometimes forget how much **prior knowledge** is required to learn a new word. Below are a few exercises to help you approach this from your student’s perspective



What sound does 'c' make?	What sound does 'a' make?	What sound does 't' make?
cup	apple	talk
church	alone	they
cease	a	true

Say these words aloud:

pet	pat	pit	pot
put	bet	bat	bit
bot	but		

Ask Yourself:

- Where and how did you learn to read in English?
- Do you speak with a regional accent?
- Does your student speak English?
- If yes, where did they learn the language?
- How many ways can you say the word “coffee”?
- Are there any words that sound similar to you, like merry and marry for example?

Our students have a lot to tackle when reading and comprehending English as a written language. It’s critically important that we understand that words are more than a combination of letters. We must step outside our own experience and teach to the needs of English Language Learners, even if English is your student’s first language.