

Creating



Tongue Twisters



for Pronunciation

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ABOUT ME



Founder & Executive Director

Victoria Yordt



Using drama as a tool to expand literacy and social emotional learning opportunities

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Let's Try a Tongue Twister

Unique New York

Tongue Twisters

- A sequence of words, often using alliteration or similar sounds, that are difficult to articulate

Some Examples:

- She sells seashells by the seashore
- Rubber baby, buggy bumper
- Betty Botter bought some butter

Why Tongue Twisters?

- Pronunciation
- Sound differentiation
- Vocabulary
- Grammar support
- Confidence building

Ways to Incorporate Tongue Twisters

- Warm-up for a tutoring session
- Exploring the difference between sounds
- Explaining grammar or sentence structure

Pattern #1

Word Combinations

- Words that may not start with the same sound or letter, but when said together become challenging
- Often a word or phrase

Word Combination Examples

Three Free Throws

Red Lorry, Yellow Lorry

Red Bulb, Blue Bulb

Toy Boat

Pattern #2: Alliteration

- Alliteration is when two or more words in a sentence have the same first letter or beginning sound.
- The more repetition, the more twisting of the tongue.
- Using this model, try and make as many words as possible start with the same first letter or sound.

Alliteration Examples

Examples:

Peter **P**iper **P**icked a **P**eck of **P**ickled **P**eppers

A **B**ig **B**lack **B**ug **B**it a **B**ig **B**lack **B**ear

Fresh **F**ried **F**ish

Cinnamon, **S**ynonym (sound)

Pattern #3:

Simple Sentence Structure

(using Alliteration)

- This pattern uses alliteration to build a complete sentence.
- You can create the tongue twister sentence as the tutor, or your student can create it themselves!

Sentence Formula

[**Adjective**] + [**Noun**] + [**Verb**] + [**Adverb**] + [**Prepositional Phrase**]

Examples

[**Adjective**] + [**Noun**] + [**Verb**] + [**Adverb**] + [**Prepositional Phrase**]

[**Silly**] + [**sailors**] + [**searched**] + [**swiftly**] + [**by the seashore**]

[**Boisterous**] + [**beavers**] + [**burrowed**] + [**briskly**] + [**before bedtime**]

Tips for English Learners

-th sound

- Not a common sound in languages that are not English

Tongue Twister Practice Examples:

- (1) I **th**ought a **th**ought but **th**e **th**ought I **th**ought wasn't **th**e **th**ought
I **th**ought I **th**ought
- (2) **Th**irty-**th**ree **th**ousand fea**th**ers on a **th**rushes **th**roat

Contrasting Sounds

-th sounds

Voiced: vibration of the vocal cords

Unvoiced: airy, no vocal cord vibration

The **th**irty-**th**ree **th**ieves **th**ought **th**at **th**ey **th**rilled **th**e **th**rone
throughout **Th**ursday.

Contrasting Sounds

/w/ & /r/ sounds

Which **w**rist **w**atch is the **S****w**iss **w**rist **w**atch and **w**hich **w**rist **w**atch is the **I****r**ish **w**rist **w**atch?

/r/ & /l/ sounds

red **l**orry, **y**ellow **l**orry

Other Challenging Sounds

/s/ & /sh/ sounds

She **s**ells **s**ea**sh**ells by the **s**ea**sh**ore

/b/ & /v/ sounds

Bob **b**uys **v**el**v**et **v**ests **b**efore **v**acation.

Breakout Groups

(15–20 minutes)

Group Activity: Create Four Tongue Twisters

Work together to create one tongue twister for each of the following patterns:

- **Word Combinations**
- **Alliteration**
- **Sentence Structure with Alliteration**
- **Two Different Sounds** (using any one of the three patterns above)

**Share a tongue twister you
wrote with your group!**

Discussion

- What was fun about creating tongue twisters?
- What was challenging?
- What are you excited to try with your student?

Thank you!