















S Blend Complexity Comprehensive Resource

Garth Schindel - SLPatHome

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About the Author

I have been helping children and their parents for over 33 years as a licensed speech-language pathologist. I have worked in many settings with many different parents and children. I want to pass on some of the tips and tricks that I have learned along the way.

More information on speech and language therapy and all of my programs can be found on my website: Speech-TherapyAtHome.com

I would love to hear from you if you have any questions or comments. I can be reached at SLP@Speech-TherapyAtHome.com

Garth Schindel, SLPatHome

Disclaimer

While I am a certified speech-language pathologist and all the ideas in this book are ones that I use with the children and parents who come to see me, this program does not replace an assessment or treatment with a speech-language pathologist or any other professional.

Introduction

This program combines three highly effective tools: Complexity, Sound Cues and Contrasts, to help you work on speech sounds in the most effective way possible.

Complexity is a powerful method to help children establish speech sounds and speech sound patterns with maximum efficiency. This program focuses on S blends with more than 2 elements. I also have programs that focus on R blends and L blends.

I've made this program to be a comprehensive resource. I've included as many practice images for each of the S blends as reasonably possible. In total, there are 381 S Blend practice words and 43 sets of contrasting words. This is more that you will likely ever need to work on with one child but they are there if you need them. Find the ones that work for you and your clients.

Sound Cues provide children with the information they need to fully understand the sounds that make up words. I've added my Ultimate Sound Cues to each practice word to make the Complexity Approach even more powerful. Sound Cues help children understand what sounds are in each word and provides the support needed for them to make each sound correctly.

My Ultimate Sound Cues are included as a free addition to this program. More information on Sound Cues can be found on my website.

Contrasts. Similar to minimal pairs, words that differ by only a few sounds help children learn that changing or adding sounds changes meaning. Showing children that “Spread” is made up of / can be broken down into “Sped”, “Red” and “Said” helps them to understand the importance of saying each sound in the bigger word. The contrasts can also be used to help children build up to the harder 3 element words. Backward chaining is one of my favorite ways to help children say harder sound combinations.

Contrasts are provided only for words that start with S blends.

All of the images in this program are provided both in full colour and in printer friendly back and white.

I hope you find this program useful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

You can email me at SLP@Speech-TherapyatHome.com

Garth Schindel SLPatHome

Ultimate Sound Cues

Sound Cues help children to say sounds correctly and to fully understand the sounds that make up each word. Every sound in English is represented by its own Sound Cue. English is confusing. Sound Cues help.

There are 3 parts to each Sound Cue:

- Picture Symbol
- Label
- Hand Gesture

Picture Symbols are unique images that represent each sound. They make it easier for children to know what sounds are in each word and what sound they are expected to say. Each practice word is accompanied by picture symbols for each sound in the word.

Labels. Each sound cue has its own label. Labels help younger children to know what sound you are talking about.

Hand Gestures. Each sound cues has a unique hand movement. Gestures, especially ones that mimic how the sound is made in the mouth, are powerful prompts to help children make sounds correctly. The gestures help children to know what their tongue and lips should be doing to make the sound.

There are two Sound Cues for R. The Race Car is for R that is usually at the start of words. The Angry Bird represents the R in Vowel R's and in R blends. "Race" and "Angry Bird" Rs also have two different hand gestures. One for the bunched R and one for the tongue tip R. Use the ones that work best for your child.

The Sound Cues are first presented in a small format that shows the Picture Symbol and the Labels. I often cut apart these Picture Symbols and help children to find the sounds that make up each word. They can then add or take away sounds to change the word. Multisensory learning is always best. Larger formats are available on my website.

Next, the Sound Cues are in a grid showing the Picture Symbol on one side and the Label, Hand Gesture on the other side. I like to print these out on either card stock paper or laminate them. I use them as visual prompts for the different sounds. If this is too much information for your child to look at, try folding the cards in half so the label and gesture are on the back.



B as in "Boy"



P as in "Pop"



C/K as in "Can"



G as in "Go"



T as in "Top"



D as in "Drum"



F as in "Fun"



V as in "Van"



H as in "Happy"



J as in "Jam"



L as in Laugh



M as in "Mom"



N as in "No"



Qw as in "Queen"



R as in "Run"



IR as in "Bird"



S as in "See"



Z as in "Zoo"



W as in "We"



Y as in "Yes"



Ch as in "Chip"



Sh as in "Shoe"



Zh as in "Treasure"



Th as in "Think"



Th as in "There"



Ng as in "Ing"



Short A as in "Cat"



Short E as in "Pet"



Short I as in "It"



Short O as in "Off"



Short U as in "Up"



u as in "Book"



Long A as in "Ape"



Long E as in "Eat"



Long I as in "Pie"



Long O as in "Toe"



Long U "Oops"



Oi as in "Oil"



Ow as in "Cow"



Ew as in "Few"



Bounce

B as in "Boy"

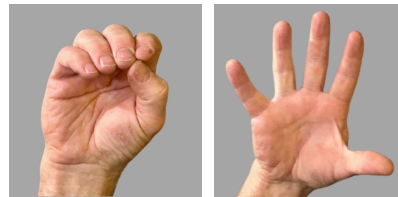


Hand facing out, fingers together. As you make the B sound, pop open your fingers. Other index finger shows that voice is on, if needed.



Pop

P as in "Puppy"

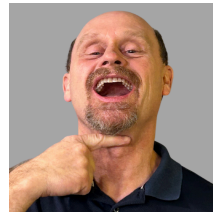


Start with your hand facing out and all of your fingers together. As you make the P sound pop open your fingers.



Cough

C/K as in "Can" or "Key"



Index finger horizontally across your throat. Move finger gently up and back. Then move it quickly away as the sound "explodes" out.



Gargle

G as in “Go”



Same as K / C but use both index and middle fingers to show that voice is on.



Tip Toe

T as in “Toy”



Place the tip of your index finger on the center of your upper lip and tap lightly.



Drum

D as in “Dog”



Tip of index finger on the center of your upper lip and tap lightly. If needed, touch your other index finger to your throat to show that voice is On.



Funny Bunny

F as in “Fun”



Place the tip of your index finger at the mid-point just below your bottom lip, press gently and hold as you make the sound.



Vacuum

V as in “Van”



Same gesture as F but if needed, touch your other finger to your throat to show that voice is On.



HaHa

H as in “Happy”



Place your open palm a few inches in front and down a bit from your mouth. Move hand away as you make the sound.



Jump J as in “Jam”



Same as Ch with your other index finger on your throat to show that voice is On – if needed.



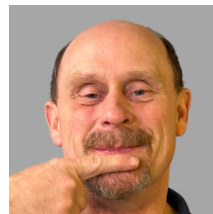
LaLa L as in “Love”



Make an L shape with your index finger and thumb. Touch your thumb just above your upper lip under your nose. Move hand out as you make sound.



Hum M as in “Mom”



Place your index finger horizontally under your bottom lip. If needed, place your other index finger on your throat to show that voice is On.



Nose

N as in “No”



Touch the side of your nose with your index finger. If needed, place your other index finger on your throat to show that your voice is On.

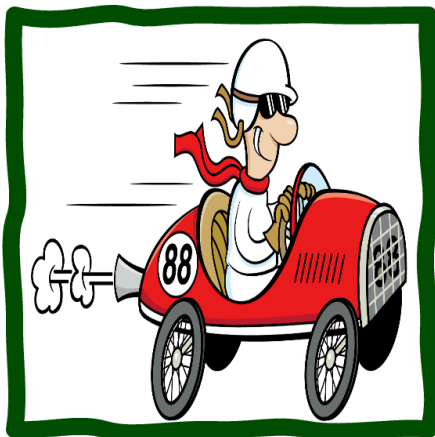


Queen

Qw as in “Quick”

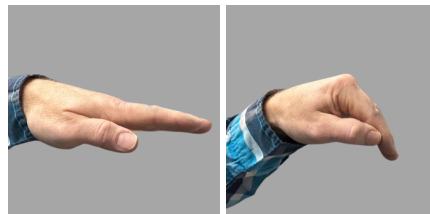


With one hand do the C/K gesture (index finger across your throat). Other hand does the W gesture (fingers on cheeks helping push lips out).

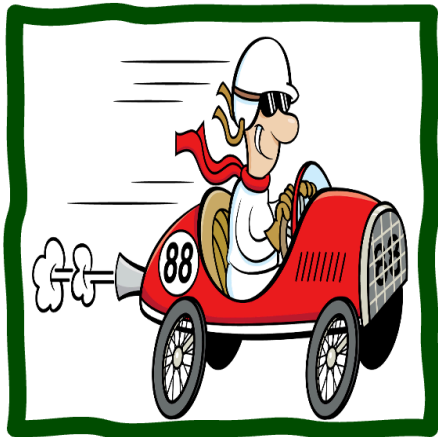


Race

R as in “Red”

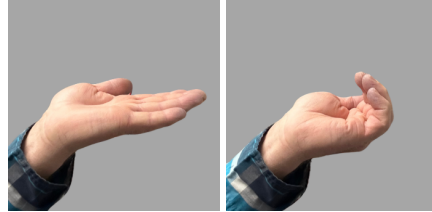


For Bunched R: Palm down. Pull your fingers back so they hump up as you say the sound.



Race

R as in "Red"



For Tongue Tip R: Palm flat. Curl fingers back and up as you say the sound.



Angry Bird

R as in "Bird"



For Bunched R: Show your teeth. Palm down. Pull your fingers back so they hump up as you say the sound.



Angry Bird

R as in "Bird"



For Tongue Tip R: Show your teeth. Palm flat. Curl fingers back and up as you say the sound.



Snake

S as in “See”



Touch your index finger at center of your top lip (or under the center of your bottom lip). Slither your finger out and away as you make the sound.

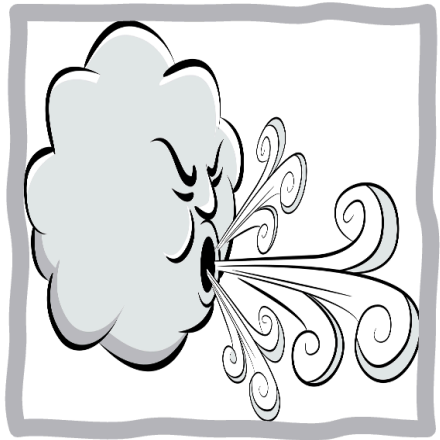


Buzz

Z as in “Zip”



Touch your index & middle fingers at the center of your top or bottom lip. Move them out away in a zig zag movement as you say the sound.

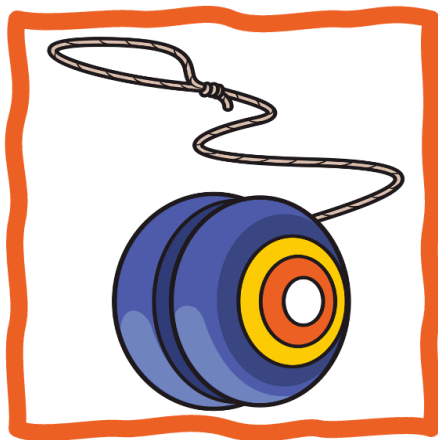


Windy

W as in “Water”



Place your thumb and index finger at opposite corners of your lips. Apply slight inward pressure to round your lips as you make the sound.

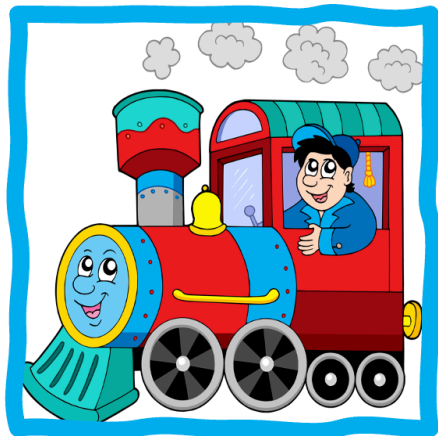


Yoyo

Y as in “Yes”



Stick out your little finger and thumb. “Hang 10”. Place your hand just under your mouth. Move it out a bit as you say the sound.



Train

Ch as in “Chip”



Thumb on one cheek. Index finger on the other. Slight pressure inwards. Move forwards quickly as you make the sound to suggest an explosion of air.



Sh!

Sh as in “Shoe”

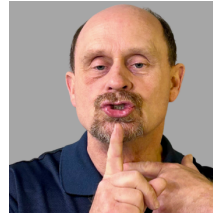


Index finger vertically just below lips. Move it out a bit as you say the sound.



Hair Dryer

Zh as in “Treasure”



Index finger vertically just below your rounded lips. If needed, touch other index finger to your throat to show that voice is On.



Quiet Tongue

Th (Voice Off) “Think”

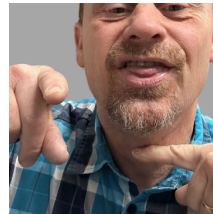


Index finger pointing out away from your mouth. Move it out a bit as you make the sound.



Noisy Tongue

Th (Voice On) “That”



Same as Quiet Tongue but touch your other finger to your throat to show that your voice is On, if needed.



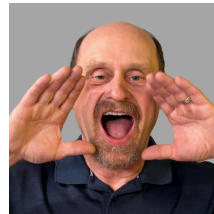
Gong
Ng as in “Sang, Sing”



Do the N gesture as you do the G gesture.



Scarry
Short A as in “Cat”



Hold your hands open at the sides of your mouth. Move them out a bit as you say the sound.



What?
Short E as in “Pet”



Hold your hand in a claw shape up by your mouth. Move it out a bit as you say the sound.



Ick

Short i as in "Pick"



Hold up your pinky up by your mouth.
Move it up a bit as you say the sound.
Use 1 or 2 hands.



Say Ahh

Short O as in "Off"



Pretend that your index finger is a
tongue depressor. Hold it pointed into
your mouth.

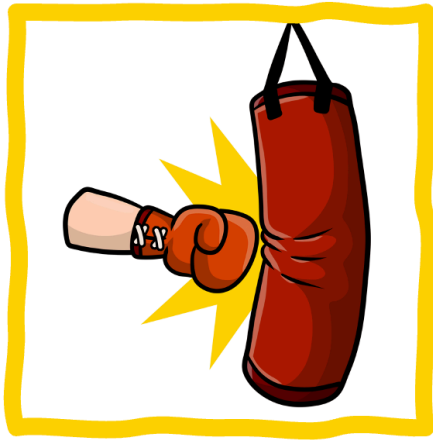


Up

Short U as in "Cut"



Hold up your index fingers on either
side of your mouth. Move them up a
bit as you say the sound.



Punch

ʊ as in “Book”



Place your index and middle fingers up by your mouth. Move them up slightly as you say the sound.

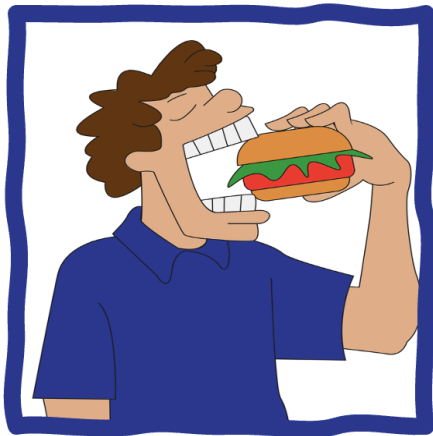


A or Cool

Long A as in “Ape”



Start with Short E (no sound) “What?” and then move to Long E “Eat”.

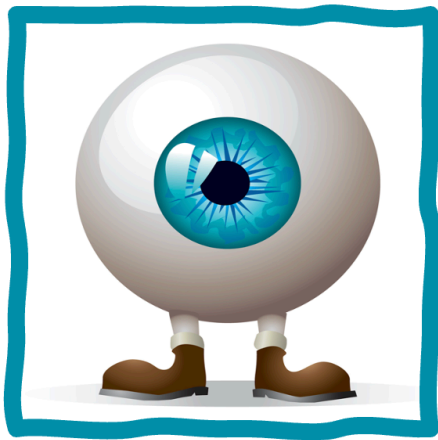


Eat

Long E as in “Sleep”



Hold your index fingers at both sides of your mouth. Move them out a bit to stretch your smile.



Eye

Long I as in “Pie”



Start with Short A “Scarry” (no sound – just to get mouth ready) and move to Long E “Eat”.

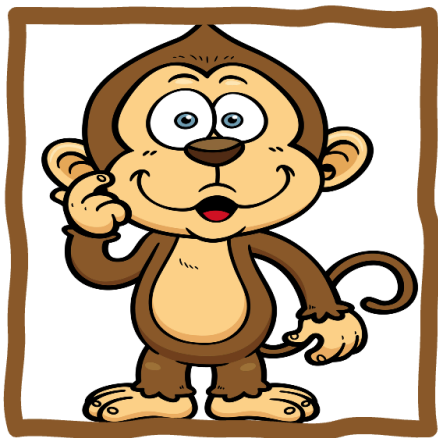


Mr. O

Long O as in “Toe”



Hands in an O shape by your mouth. Move them out a bit as you make the sound.



Monkey Lips

Long U as in “Oops”



Use your index fingers and thumbs to show “rounded lips”. Fingers and thumbs don’t touch your lips.



Oink
Oi as in "Oi"



Start with Long O "Mr. O" and move to Long I "Eye".



Ouch
Ow as in "Ow"



Start with Short A "Scarry" and move to Long U "Monkey".



Stinky
Ew as in "Ew"



Start with Long E "Eat" and move to Long U "Monkey" gesture.

How the Words are Organized

- The different blends are listed in alphabetical order.
- The words in each group are sorted from shortest to longest. Often shorter words are easier than longer ones.
- If there were enough words with the blend at the beginning, middle and ends of words then I divided them by position.
- Contrasts are provided for the clusters that start with S. They follow each group of S blend words.
- I use the Queen sound cue to represent the KW combination. In the Contrast words I've broken it up into K and W to show words such as "Swear" and "Care". If the child you are working with is finding this confusing, try showing them that Qw is made up of the K and W sounds. The Queen sound is "special", she is made up of two different sounds.

The Sound Cues are underneath all of the practice words. I used General American Pronunciation for each word. If you pronounce the words differently, either ignore the sound cues or change them to what works for you.

List of Practice Words

KSN

Oxen
Nixon
Vixen

Waxen
Saxon
Jackson

Klaxon
Flaxen

KSP

Backspin
Backspace
Workspace

Larkspur
Backspot
Backspike

Backspatter
Workspaces

KSPL

Explode
Exploit
Explore

Explain
Explete
Backsplash

Explicit
Explorers

KST

Axed
Waxed
Next

Nixed
Boxed
Mixed

Taxed
Fixed

LKS 

Elks
Silks
Milks

Hulks
Sulks
Bulks

Welks
Skulks

LPS 

Alps
Helps
Palps

Kelps
Gulps
Whelps

Yelps
Pulps

LTS 

Belts
Colts
Jolts
Melts
Welts
Tilts

Kilts
Quilts
Waltz
Vaults
Faults
Adults

Stilts
Catapults
Somersaults
Thunderbolts

MPS 

Dumps
Lamps
Chimps

Chomps
Camps
Bumps

Jumps
Stamps

NST 

Sensed
Onstage
Instead

Install
Against
Monster

Instant
Nonstop

NTS 

Ants
Faints
Pants

Wants
Paints
Hunts

Mints
Students

NgKS 

Dunks
Honks
Thanks
Thinks
Sinks

Chunks
Yanks
Drinks
Links
Banks

Winks
Blinks
Planks
Skunks
Trunks

Pranks

RKS   

Arcs
Works
Quirks
Larks
Smirks
Marks

Corks
Forks
Sharks
Parks
Barks
Sparks

Storks
Fireworks
Networks
Bookmarks

RPS   

Burps
Chirps
Harps

Slurps
Tarps
Warps

Sharps
Carps

RST   

Burst
First
Worst

Thirst
Thirsty
Forced

Doorstep
Superstar

RTS   

Arts
Hurts
Shirts
Yurts
Parts
Darts

Sorts
Farts
Warts
Shorts
Tarts
Artsy

Ports
Carts
Hearts
Desserts

SKR    **at the Start of Words**

Screw
Scree
Scram
Screen
Scroll
Scrub
Scribe
Scrap
Screech
Scream
Scrape
Scratch

Scrappy
Scrooge
Scrag
Scrum
Scrod
Scrawl
Scrounge
Scruple
Scrimp
Script
Scraper
Scribble

Scrawny
Scripture
Scruffy
Scrabble
Scrunch
Scraper
Screwball
Scraggly
Scrimmage
Scrambler
Scrimshaw
Scratchpad

Scrutiny
Scrambled

Screensaver
Screwdriver

SKR  **in the Middle of Words**

Unscrew
Muskrat
Ice Cream
Describe

Proscribe
Sunscreen
Touchscreen
Inscription

Description
Postscript
Prescription
Manuscript

SKR  **Contrasts**

Scram – Scam – Ram – Sam – Cam
Screw – Crew – Sue – Coo – Roo
Scrum – Crumb – Scum – Come – Rum
Scream – Cream - Ream – Seam
Script – Crypt – Ripped – Sipped
Scrap – Crap – Rap – Cap
Scrawl – Crawl – Call – Saul

SPL  **at the Start of Words**

Splay
Splash
Splurge
Sploosh
Splat
Splice
Spleen
Splodge

Split
Spish
Spotch
Spotchy
Splitter
Splashy
Splutter
Splint

Splatter
Splendor
Splinter
Splashing
Splashdown
Splendid
Split-level
Splendiferous

SPL  **in the Middle of Words**

Display
Explain
Explore

Explode
Misplace
Sun Splashed

Unexplored
Unexplainable

SPL  **Contrasts**

Split – Slit – Spit Pit – Sit – Lit
Splash – Slash – Lash – Sash
Splatter – Platter – Latter – Patter
Splodge – Spodge – Podge – Lodge
Splatter – Platter – Spatter – Latter – Patter
Splat – Spat – Slat – Lat – Sat
Splice – Slice – Spice – Lice

Splitter – Spitter – Litter – Sitter
Splay – Play – Slay – Spay – Lay – Say - Pay

SPR    **at the Start of Words**

Spur	Sprang	Sprawling
Spurred	Sprout	Sprinter
Spurt	Spruce	Sprightly
Spry	Sprite	Sprocket
Spree	Spread	Sprinkler
Spray	Spring	Sprinkles
Sprayer	Springy	Springtime
Sprain	Spritz	Springboard
Sprung	Sprattle	
Sprig	Spraddle	
Sprog	Sprint	
Sprawl	Sprecher	

SPR    **in the Middle of Words**

Disperse	Offspring	Respiration
Disprove	Bedsread	Prosperous
Espresso	Misprint	

SPR    **at the End of Words**

Casper	Vesper	Crisper
Whisper	Jasper	Grasper
Rasper	Prosper	

SPR    **Contrasts**

Sprout – Spout – Pout –Route
Spread – Sped – Red – Said
Spry – Spy – Pry – Pie – Rye
Sprain – Spain – Rain – Sane
Sprocket – Rocket – Pocket – Socket
Spring – Ring – Sing - Ping
Spray – Spay – Pray – Pay – Ray - Say

SQw (SKW)   **at the Start of Words**

Squeak	Squid	Squawk
Squire	Squib	Squat
Square	Squish	Squad
Squeeze	Squeal	Squall

Squash
Squashed
Squiggle
Squeaker
Squelch
Squint

Squabble
Squeegee
Squishy
Squealer
Squared
Squalid

Squander
Squatting
Squeamish
Squelchy

SQw (SKW)   **Contrasts**

Square – Swear – Scare – Wear – Care
Squeeze – Skis – Wheeze – Keys
Squid – Skid – Sid – Quid
Squat – Scott – Swatt – Watt – Sought – Caught
Squall – Skal – Call – Wall
Squish – Swish – Wish – Kish

SQwR (SKWR)   

Squirm
Squirt
Squirrel

Squirrely
Squirreled
Squirmy

Squirted
Squirt Gun

SQwR (SKWR)    **Contrasts**

Squirm – Worm
Squirrel – Swirl – Whirl – Curl
Squirt – Skirt – Quirt – Curt

STR    **at the Start of Words**

Stir
Strew
Stray
Straw
Strum
Strong
Strut
Stride
Strap

Stress
Stroke
Stream
Strip
Street
Stretch
Strike
Strand
String

Strength
Struggle
Stroller
Strudel
Structure
Strawberry

STR    **in the Middle of Words**

Destroy
Asteroid
Mustard
Mystery

Yesterday
Destroyer
Mastering
Hysteria

Astronaut
Hamstring
Demonstrate
Catastrophe

Instruments

STR at the Ends of Words

Oyster	Pasture	Youngster
Shyster	Faster	Gangster
Roister	Hoister	Sinister
Rooster	Jester	Dumpster
Mister	Boister	Minister
Master	Hamster	Trickster
Poster	Hipster	Spinster
Sister	Monster	Register

STR Contrasts

Strew – Stew – True – Sue – Two – Roo
Stray – Stay – Tray – Say – Ray
Stream – Steam – Team – Seam – Ream
String – Sting – Ring – Sing
Stroller – Troller – Solar - Roller

STS

Guests	Zests	Posts
Hoists	Lists	Pests
Nests	Rests	

Practice Images

Following are images for all of the practice words.

Let me know if you have any suggestions for additional words or any changes you that would be helpful.

KSN