



What is Auditory Discrimination?

Auditory Discrimination is the ability to discriminate or hear the difference between two or more sounds.

Why is Auditory Discrimination a key to reading and spelling well?

Auditory Discrimination is the first skill a student needs to master spelling. Before a child can *assign a Sound Picture* (letter or group of letters) to a sound, the child must be able to correctly *hear* the sound in the word. The Auditory Discrimination pages here help develop your child's ability to hear the sounds within words, to spell with ease.¹

What supplies do I need, to play these games?

1. Two separate containers (buckets, pails, or any kind of kitchen containers)
2. A Lead Card for the Lesson's Sound Picture²—taped on the first bucket, pail, or bowl; the second container is left blank and not labeled.
4. About 56 "tokens" such as buttons, stones, pennies, or any other small manipulative
5. Highlighter marker (of any light color)

How to Play: "Fill the Bucket"

The purpose of this game is to hear the difference between the two given sounds.³

1. One by one, the parent reads the sounds across the row.
2. When the child hears the Lesson's sound, he/she places a token into the container with the Lesson Sound Picture/Lead Card on its front.
3. When the non-Lesson sound is spoken, the child places the token in the non-marked bucket. (Note: We may not have taught the non-lesson sound yet; we're simply saying/identifying that the second sound is not the Lesson sound.) Continue to say each sound in the row, left to right.
4. When the child has heard all the sounds in one row, stop to let the child color over the Lesson picture in the row with the highlighter. Be sure to stop after each row, to color in the Lesson pictures in the "finished row." Once the Lesson pictures are colored in that row, go to the next row.

¹ To read more about spelling and how it works, login to your member account, go to the Classes Home Page for your level, click on the gold "Before You Begin" button, and get the "What is Spelling, Anyway?" page. Here, you'll read how spelling truly works—and how you can help your student become a better speller—able to easily spell *anything*.

² A Lead Card is a square card (usually 2" x 2" OR half of a 3x5 card) with the Sound Picture drawn on the card with a wide black marker. Lead Card letters are always drawn in lower case, and there are no slash marks on either side (the letter "stands alone"). Slash marks here in the instructions only tell the adult/teacher to say the vowel sound (as in "apple") when reading /a/, and not to say the letter name "A" (as in "ape"). The Lead Cards are also always written in black—not color coded in any way, so that the student relies on the actual memory of only the letter-sound connection, for recall (as opposed to a color).

³ Some sounds are easily confused by beginner readers. To make it easier, use the Sound Sign for the sound as you speak as a visual cue. The visual cue can be dropped off at any time or simply used "as needed" (when the child struggles to hear the sound).



Auditory Discrimination Two-Sound

a

e

Basic Code – Sound Pictures

a b c k ck d e f g h i j l m n o p r s t u v w y z s qu x

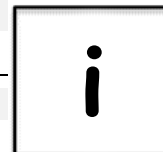
Alphabet

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
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Auditory Discrimination Three (or more) Sounds Instructions



Basic Code – Sound Pictures

a b c k ck d e f g h i j l m n o p r s t u v w y z s qu x

Alphabet

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

“What supplies do I need for three (or more) Auditory Discrimination?”

1. Two separate containers (buckets, pails, or any kind of kitchen containers)
2. A Lead Card⁴ for the Lesson’s Sound Picture—taped on the first bucket, pail, or bowl; the second and third containers are blank/not labeled.
3. About 56 “tokens” such as buttons, stones, pennies, or any other small manipulative
4. Highlighter marker (any light color)

How to Use the Following Pages for the “Fill the Bucket” Game

The purpose of this game is to hear the difference between three or more sounds.^{5 6}

1. The parent reads the row on the page, one sound at a time. Be sure to only say the sounds—not the letter names!
2. When the child hears the Lesson’s sound, he/she places a token into the container with the Lesson’s Sound Picture/Lead Card on its front.
3. When the non-Lesson sounds are spoken, the child places the token into the non-marked bucket. (Note: We may not have taught the non-lesson sound yet; we’re simply saying/identifying that the other sounds are not the Lesson sound. Also, we’re not saying words; we’re only saying the Sound Picture’s sound.)
4. Continue to say each sound in the row, left to right, until the row is complete.
5. When the child has “heard all the sounds in the row,” he/she gets to color over the Lesson’s picture in the row with the highlighter. Stop after each row, to color in the Lesson pictures in the “finished row.”

Save the highlighter-colored pages for a Visual Discrimination game.

The finished pages (with the highlighted Lesson Sound Pictures) can be used as a Visual Discrimination page for reading. Simply have the child start at the top of the page. “Read” and say the Lesson Sound Pictures one by one, left to right—skipping over the non-Lesson Sound Pictures and covering each Lesson Sound Picture with a token as it’s spoken. Continue with each row until the entire page’s Lesson Sound Pictures are covered.

⁴ A Lead Card is a square card (usually 2” x 2” OR half of a 3x5 card) with the Sound Picture drawn on the card with a wide black marker. Lead Card letters are always drawn in lower case. The Lead Cards are also always written in black—not color coded in any way, so that the student relies on the actual memory of only the letter-sound connection, for recall (as opposed to a color).

⁵ Some sounds are easily confused by beginner readers. To make it easier, use the Sound Sign for the sound as you speak as a visual cue. The visual cue can be dropped off at any time or simply used “as needed” (when the child struggles to hear the sound).

⁶ If you’d like to know and use the Sound Signs, feel free to get the Sound Signs book found in the Resources section of the True North Reading website. The resource can also be found on Amazon.



Auditory Discrimination

Three (or more) Sounds

a

e

i

Basic Code – Sound Pictures

a b c k ck d e f g h i j l m n o p r s t u v w y z s qu x

Alphabet

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

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