

# Change It

## Goal

Phoneme substitution is the ability to replace a sound in a word with a new sound and identify the new word. It involves mentally blending sounds, modifying words and segmenting sounds in order to make the change. Students generally need to have a strong knowledge of other skills such as rhyming, syllables, blending and sequencing before they can be successful with manipulating sounds.

## Materials

- VoicePal Levels
- 10-message overlay
- List of words and substitute sounds

## Steps

1. Decide on a list of words that will be changed and which phoneme will be targeted. For beginners, start by changing the initial consonant sound of a word. You should also start with changes that result with real words and not nonsense words. Word family lists are a great source for generating words that are easily changed. Here is a sample list of the initial words and resulting words following manipulation:
  - pail to tail
  - cat to rat
  - pig to wig
  - log to dog
  - tub to sub
  - dice to mice
  - get to jet
  - pop to hop
  - jump to pump
  - nest to vest
2. Create an overlay for the VoicePal Levels using the template in this book or by using the Boardmaker computer program. The visual cues chosen for this overlay should represent each of the resulting words AFTER phoneme substitution is completed. When the overlay has been completed, slide it into the opening on the left side of the keypad.
3. Configure the VoicePal Levels for 10 messages. All Function Switches should be in the OFF position.
4. Recording the messages:
  - a. Press and hold the RECORD button. The LED will begin to flash and then turn solid.
  - b. Press and hold the button on the keypad that is to contain the message. Speak the message clearly. When the message is complete, release the button. An immediate playback of the message will be heard to confirm the recording. For best results, hold the device approximately 12 inches from the sound source while recording.

- c. Repeat step b for each message.
- d. When all the messages have been recorded, press and hold the RECORD button. The LED will flash and then go off. This returns the device to its play back mode.

*The messages for this activity will be the words that result after the phoneme substitution has been completed and are represented on the overlay.*

5. Activity Instructions:
  - a. You are going to listen to some words as I say them. You will make new words by changing the beginning sound to a new sound.
  - b. I will say, "Replace the first sound in \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_. What is the new word?"
  - c. Here we go:
    - Replace the first sound in pail with /t/.  
What is the new word? (tail)
    - Replace the first sound in cat with /r/.  
What is the new word? (rat)
    - Replace the first sound in pig with /w/.  
What is the new word? (wig)
    - Replace the first sound in log with /d/.  
What is the new word? (dog)
    - Replace the first sound in tub with /s/.  
What is the new word? (sub)
    - Replace the first sound in dice with /m/.  
What is the new word? (mice)
    - Replace the first sound in get with /j/.  
What is the new word? (jet)
    - Replace the first sound in pop with /h/.  
What is the new word? (hop)
    - Replace the first sound in jump with /p/.  
What is the new word? (pump)

## Activity Variations

1. Complete the same activity with a list of words. Change either the middle sounds or ending sounds to form new words. For example, map to mop or map to mat.
2. The above activity could be completed using the auditory scanning mode of the VoicePal Levels. This would allow the user to hear the word choices as well as see the visual cues that accompany them. For some students, having both visual and auditory cues is important to his or her successful completion of the task. It can also allow someone with poor vision skills to participate in the activity.

## Equipment Variations

1. The above activity could be done using the VoicePal Levels with external switches. Just add visual cues to each switch that corresponds to that message. The VoicePal 8 and VoicePal 8K could be used in this manner as well.
2. The VoicePal Levels is capable of both visual and auditory scanning.