



Clearing Up the Lowercase 'b' and 'd' Confusion

Here are two fun challenges to help writers learn the difference between the lowercase b and d. The first challenge is for the lowercase letter b.

Here are the steps!

(Take 1-3 days to introduce the letter b before beginning the week-long challenge.)

1. First, print out the BACK-BELLY-b image (page 2). Place it in a plastic page protector.
2. Second, teach the phrase, "BACK-BELLY-b".
As you draw down, say "back."
As you curve up to form the circle, say, "belly."
The moment you finish drawing the lowercase b say, "b."



3. Explain to the students that the letter b is like a person's back and belly.
4. Repeat the phrase as you draw the b again in one fluid motion. Have students practice the phrase and the strokes in the air.
5. Give each student a BACK-BELLY-b page in a plastic page protector.
6. Have each child say the phrase BACK-BELLY-b while tracing the letter simultaneously.
7. Have each child trace the strokes with a dry erase marker. It erases easily. Each child can practice it many times.



8. Next, have each child complete the BACK BELLY-b week long challenge!

For 5 days straight, during snack time, have each child place a bite of snack in the belly of the b.



Then, have them trace the back, the belly and say b! Have them do that for each bite of their snack each day for 5 days!

9. Once the children have completed the week long challenge, encourage them to phonetically spell words that begin with 'b' as in bat, ball, balloon, big, box, butter, book etc.

Common Core Standards that can be addressed in this lesson are CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.K.1.A and L.1.1.A.

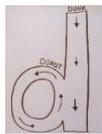


The second challenge is for the lowercase d. Note that it's best if you spend 3-4 weeks teaching other letters right after the BACK-BELLY-b challenge. After the 3-4 weeks, introduce the lowercase letter d.

Now for the steps!

(Take 1-3 days to introduce the letter d before beginning the week-long challenge.)

1. First, print out the "DONUT-DUNK-d" image (page 4). Place it in a plastic page protector.
2. Second, teach the phrase, "DONUT-DUNK-d".
As you draw the circle, say "donut."
As you draw the line down, say, "dunk."
The moment you finish drawing the lowercase d say, "d."

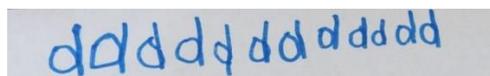


3. Explain to the students that the letter d is like a donut that gets dunked.
4. Repeat the phrase as you draw the d again in one fluid motion. Have students practice the phrase and the strokes in the air.
5. Give each student a "DONUT-DUNK-d" page in a plastic page protector.
6. Have each child say the phrase "DONUT-DUNK-d" while tracing the letter simultaneously.
7. Have each child trace the strokes with a dry erase marker. It erases easily. Each child can practice it many times.



8. Next, have each child complete the "DONUT-DUNK-d" week long challenge!

For 5 days straight, have each child draw one dozen DONUT-DUNK-d's.



On the 5th day, celebrate with a donut dunk treat! Treat each child to a donut and a cup of milk (or non-dairy milk for those who are lactose intolerant). Let them enjoy the donut dunk!



9. Once the children have completed the week long challenge, encourage them to phonetically spell words that begin with 'd' as in dad, dig, dog, duck etc.

Common Core Standards that can be addressed in this lesson are CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.K.1.A and L.1.1.A.