



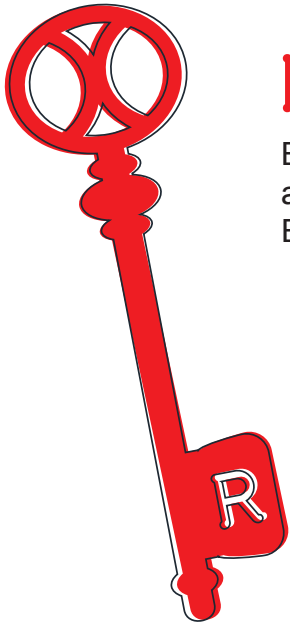
Use Beginning and Ending Sounds

Keys to
Accuracy

**Ruby
Reader**

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Use Beginning and Ending



Keys for the Teacher

Beginning sounds are prompts students use to jump start their thinking process as they read. It gives children a place to start when they encounter a new word. Ending sounds can affirm that decoded words look right and sound right.

Keys for the Children

When you read, look at the pictures, then look closely at the word and say the beginning sound. Sometimes the word just pops out of your mouth like magic. Look at the ending sound. Does it match the word you just said?

Lesson

We introduce this strategy by making a comparison to lining up at the door. The beginning letter in a word is the line leader; the ending letter is the caboose. To practice, play the “Leader-Caboose” game. Provide numbered letter cards for common words. A group of students stand in a line each holding a letter card to spell a word.

Sample questions to ask:

- *Which letter is the line leader?*
- *How do you know?*
- *Which letter is the caboose?*
- *Which letters are in the middle?*
- *What sounds do the letters make?*
- *Is the line leader a vowel?*
- *How about the caboose?*
- *How many sounds are in this word?*
- *How many beginning sounds?*
- *How many ending sounds?*
- *What is the word?*

Continue to spotlight beginning letters and sounds through the year on charts and poems.

Reinforce the magic of using the beginning sound as a tool to get the word to pop out of their mouths. Then use the ending sound to double check that the word fits.

Notes...

1

When conferring with individual students struggling with a word, point to the beginning letter and quietly ask, “What strategy might help you figure out this word?”

2

Pay close attention to English Language Learners to be sure they understand the words “first, beginning, ending, last” and “caboose.” They may know the concepts but not the vocabulary.

3

Checking students’ writing can be a quick assessment to see if they have internalized using beginning letters and sounds.

