

Dear Family:

The concept in Unit 5 of Foundations® is one that your child should grasp quickly.

The sounds of the letters **m** and **n** come through the nose and because of this, the short vowel sound of **a** is somewhat distorted. Therefore, I teach the children that **/am/** as in **ham** and **/an/** as in **fan** are **glued** together because it is difficult to separate the **a** from the **m** or **n**.

The word **ham** will be tapped this way: **/h/** touching index finger to thumb; then the **/am/** touching middle finger and ring finger (glued together) to the thumb.

Make sure your child knows the letters, keyword, and sound for **am** and **an**.

Say the letters **a - m**, then the keyword **ham**, then the sound **/am/**.

Say the letters **a - n**, then the keyword **fan**, then the sound **/an/**.

The **all** sound from Unit 4 is also “glued” together. Be sure to keep the pictures for these sounds with all of the other Keyword Pictures.

Sincerely,

First Grade Team



all



/öl/

ball

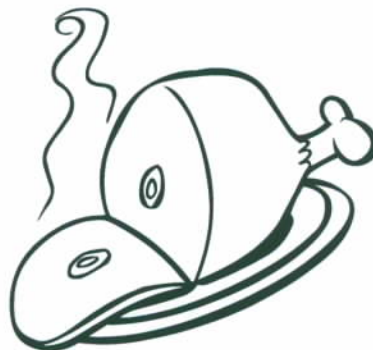
an



/an/

fan

am



/am/

ham

→ Add this page to your child's notebook of sounds.



Homework Guide

Review the **glued sounds**, /am/ (as in **ham**) and /an/ (as in **fan**), with your child during the next week.

Follow These 4 Steps:

1. Dictate the word and have your child echo the word.
2. Have your child tap out the sounds. Remember, /am/ and /an/ are “glued” sounds so they get one tap by

touching middle finger and ring finger to the thumb. Do not tap trick words (in bold).

3. Have your child tell you the letters that go with those sounds.
4. Have your child write the letters. It is helpful if you say the letters as your child writes them.

WEEK 1

Dictate the words and sentence to your child following the 4 steps listed above.

On Monday Dictate	Review Words	→	ball	fox	quill
On Tuesday Dictate	Current Words	→	ham	jam	can
On Wednesday Dictate	Trick Words	→	from	does	have
On Thursday Dictate	Sentence	→	Mom will shop for ham and jam.		

Note

Your child might be able to read the following book with your help:

Green Eggs and Ham, by Dr. Seuss; Random House, 1960.



Do the Seek and Find Activity

1. Have your child **read** the sentences, scooping them into phrases.
2. Have your child **underline** the consonant digraphs.
3. Have your child draw a **box** around the glued sounds.

Jill can get the fan for Sam.



The man with a tan will shop for a pan.



Answer Key

2. Underline **sh** in **shop**, **th** in **the**, and **th** in **with**.
3. Put a box around **an** in **can**, **an** in **fan**, **an** in **and**, **am** in **Sam**, **an** in **man**, **an** in **tan**, and **an** in **pan**.

WEEK 1

from

do



have



does



→ **Cut words into flashcards.** 1. Each night, help your child **read** all Trick Words from previous units, as well as these. 2. Have your child **trace** each new Trick Word with his or her finger and **spell** it aloud; and 3. Cover up the Trick Word and have your child write it with his or her finger on the table while naming each letter.



Writing Grid for Word and Sentence Homework



Review Words



 _____ 



 _____ 



 1 _____ 2 _____ 

 _____ 



 _____ 



 _____ 



 3 _____ 



 _____ 

Current Words



 _____ 



 _____ 



 1 _____ 2 _____ 



 _____ 



Trick Words



 _____ 



 _____ 



 3 _____ 1 _____ 

 _____ 


 _____ 



 _____ 


 2 _____ 3 _____ 



 _____ 



Sentence


 _____ 


 _____ 


 1 _____ 

 _____ 

 _____ 

 _____ 

 _____ 

 _____ 