



Teacher Tip THE SOUND OF S If the students are having difficulty judging whether a word begins with the /s/ sound, suggest that they repeat the word after you. Then have them decide if the word begins with /s/.

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Listening for Initial /s/

- Give each student an *Ss Letter Card*. Look at the picture on the *Alphabet Sound Card* for *s*. Ask each of the students to say the /s/ sound as they take their cards.
- Remember to establish a signal that the students understand as the signal to respond. When you indicate the response signal, students will show their card if they think the word begins with the /s/ sound.
- Now tell the students that you will say a word and that you want them to listen for the first sound. If it is the /s/ sound, they should hold up the *Ss* card when you give the signal.

- Try the following words:

see	sake	so	make
say	soak	may	poke
sigh	pole	my	sink
sight	soap	might	sip
meat	sap	seat	map
seal	seek	sail	seen

Linking the Sound to the Letter

Word Pairs

In this activity, you will write pairs of words on the board. One word of each pair should begin with the /s/ sound; the other should not. Say the word beginning with the /s/ sound, and ask the students to identify it. Remind them to listen for the /s/ sound and then to think about which letter makes that sound.

- Write *see*, *bee* on the board. Ask the students, “Which word says *see*? If you think it is this one (point to *see*), raise your hand. If you think it is this one (point to *bee*), raise your hand.” Ask someone to come up and point to the word and to circle the letter that makes the /s/ sound at the beginning of the word. Try these words:

fit . . . sit	so . . . no
mix . . . six	September . . . November
sand . . . hand	same . . . name

- If the students are having trouble, remind them that the words you are looking for begin with the /s/ sound, so the correct word will begin with the letter that makes the sound /s/.