How to Correct Wrong Sounds and Pauses

when students are **reading** whole words

Imagine that a student must read the word *mast*.

Did the student correctly read the word the fast way?

→ Yes → Say, **"Touch and read it fast..."**

← Not yet

Did the student read the correct sounds?

→ Yes

Did the student read the sounds without pausing between any of them?

→ Yes → Say, **"Touch and read it fast..."**

Not yet

Not yet

Wrong Sound

Touch the screen underneath the wrong sound, and say, for example,

"This sound is /t/. What sound is it?... Read the word again..."

Pauses

NAME THE ERROR

Say,

"Touch and read the word again slowly, but—this time—don't pause between any of the sounds..."

Not Correct Yet

Correct

ISOLATE THE ERROR

For example, cover all but the first two sounds, and say,

"Touch and read just the first two sounds slowly without pausing between them..."

Not Correct Yet

Correct

MODEL THE ISOLATION

Say,

"My turn to touch and read those sounds slowly without pausing: /mmmăăă/. Your turn..."

Not Correct Yet

Correct

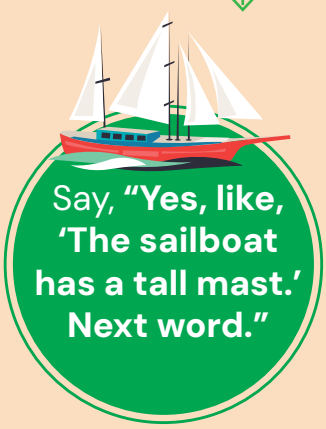
SAY IT SIMULTANEOUSLY

Say,

"Let's read those sounds slowly together three times without pausing between the /mmm/ and /ăăă/..."

Not Correct Yet

Correct



Say, **"Yes, like, 'The sailboat has a tall mast.' Next word."**

Students' errors are the most exciting moments of instruction because it's when students learn the most! But you have to correct them in the right way.

Your corrections should be immediate, consistent, kind, and persistent.

Immediate: Correct students' errors right away. Don't wait.

Consistent: Correct every error, every time (unless it's caused by a speech issue, like if the student can only pronounce *rug* as /wŭg/ at this point).

Kind: Correct with a smile. You and the student should both be eager to spot any errors and work to address them, not ashamed of them or afraid to break them down.

Persistent: Don't give up. It's common for instructors not to stick with an error long enough. If you cheerfully keep at it, the student usually will too.

Use this side to correct wrong sounds and pausing in Word Reading and Story Reading tasks.

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