The
S Buddy
Sound

S?

Features and Cues

✓ Includes /sw/, /sl/, /sn/, /sm/, /sp/, /st/, /sk/, /skw/, /spl/, /skr/, /str/, /spr/, /ts/, /ps/ and /ks/.

✓ All sounds are marked and blended smoothly without a schwa vowel (e.g. “slide”, not “suh-lide”).

Need More Help?

- ☞ Take away the first sound and then add it back into the word (e.g. ‘mall’, ‘small’).
- ☞ Slide your finger down your arm to cue for /s/, and then tap your hand to finish the word.

Common Errors

× Omissions (e.g. says “sar” or “tar” for “star”)

× /d/, /t/, /f/ or /fw/

× Interdental error or lateral distortion

Classroom Strategies

1. Model correct speech in response to some of the student’s errors. Use emphasis and point to your mouth to highlight the corrected sound (“Are you going after **sch**ool?”).

2. Point out the different sounds in print (e.g. “Look, ‘spoon’ has your practice sound.”).

3. Create a small list of functional, key words for you and your student to practice together in their classroom routines. Write the words on a cue card or sticky note as a reminder.
   a. Can you think of words that you use in your lessons that contain /s/ blends?
   b. Does the student have a classmate whose name contains an /s/ blend?
   c. Are there any weekly vocabulary or spelling words that contain /s/ blends?

4. Offer choices for correct responding to discussion questions (e.g. “Did she ‘dop’ or ‘**st**op’ the video?”). Place emphasis on the correct sound.

5. Remember to acknowledge the student’s attempts to communicate. Show interest in what they are saying and give them extra time to respond, as needed.