Unit 8, page 60: Three-Letter Clusters

Some students may have difficulty pronouncing the initial consonant s. They may add an e when writing or saying words spelled with initial consonant s. Other students may need more practice with the /th/ sound.

Listen

Remind students that the scr spelling in the Basic Word scream is called a three-letter cluster, or consonant cluster. Explain that cluster means “group.” Point out that the scr cluster begins with the /s/ sound. Say: Let’s listen to the scr consonant cluster: It begins with /s/, /sscr/, sscream, scream. Continue with street and spring.

Next, write the word three on the board. Explain that the sound for th in three is pronounced /th/ and is also part of a consonant cluster, the thr cluster. Say: Let’s listen to the /th/ sound in the thr cluster and in the word three. Pronounce the /th/ sound at the beginning of three, elongate the /th/ sound alone and as part of the thr cluster, then say three. Remind students that th is pronounced /th/, and not /t/. Repeat for throw.

Speak and Read

Say: Let’s practice saying the str cluster in the word street: /st/, /ssstr/, ssstreet, street. Have students repeat after you. Then have a volunteer model the pronunciation of the cluster in spring.

Write street, scream, and spring on the board, and underline the s in each word. Say: The /s/ sound in each cluster is spelled s. Now let's practice saying the consonant cluster scr in the word scream together: /s/, /ssscr/, sscream, scream.

Circle the str cluster in street. Say: The str cluster, /ssstr/, is spelled s-t-r. Circle the spr and scr clusters in spring and scream. Have volunteers model the pronunciation of the str, spr, and scr clusters in street, spring, and scream. Repeat for the thr clusters in three and throw.

Spell

Beginning/Preproduction Create and display word cards for the Basic Words scrape, string, street, scream, spray, and spring. Say: I am thinking of a word that begins with s-c-r. Have a student point to and say scream or scrape. Place the card face down. Repeat for the remaining clusters and words.

Early Production/Speech Emergent Create and display word cards for the Basic Words scrape, string, street, scream, spray, and spring. Have students work with a partner and write the column headings scr, spr, and str across the top of a sheet of paper. Read aloud each word. Have students list each word according to its beginning three-letter cluster. Have students read their lists aloud, emphasizing each three-letter cluster.

Intermediate/Advanced Using separate sentence strips, write a simple sentence for each of these Basic Words: scrape, string, street, scream, spray, and spring. Have students read aloud each sentence, identifying the Basic Word and saying it aloud. Then have students underline the consonant cluster in each word.