

*Help your children learn English at home\_*

*Blending words using spelling cubes*

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*Blending words using Spelling cubes*

Objective: To help children understand some basic rules of word formation.

Level: kindergarten / lower primary

Preparation: plastic letter cubes (available in stationery shops).

Steps:

- Choose a time (e.g. 10 minutes after dinner ) for the activity
- Put the cubes on a table.
- Ask your child: "Can you spell 'man' with the cubes? "
- The child puts the cubes : 'm,a, n' in the correct order.
- Then you continue: "Good for you. What do you add to make 'woman'?"
- The child may hesitate, and then add 'w' and 'o'.
- You are happy. You may move on with a tricky one: " Try to spell 'mango.'"
- Again, the child can do it.
- Then you challenge him/her : 'Good. And can you spell 'mangoes'?"

- If the child spells ' mangos' , it is time that you take this chance to fix the mistake and remind the child of the rule of word formation.

Note: It brings more fun to children when they can play with the colourful cubes rather than doing a pen and paper 'dictation'. Besides, some young children especially the 3-4 year olds may not be ready to write English words properly. Thus using these spelling cubes may serve the purpose of testing the children the spelling power by simply arranging the letters in the correct order. Time will not be wasted on writing the words. Parents may also use the cubes flexibly when giving instructions to the children.

### 方塊拼字樂

學校老師多明白擁有豐富的字詞庫是學習外語者加強讀寫聽說技巧的基本條件，所以老師都着重幫助學生增加字詞的認識，亦因此家長可能經常要協助孩子溫習生字預備學校默書和測考。

如何令溫習字詞成為親子樂的活動？如何協助子女溫故知新，一面掌握新內容，一面鞏固舊知識？這裏我介紹方塊拼字樂，家長必須學習和孩子一起玩。

家長先預備大量英文字母方塊來排列不同字詞。在一些文具店可以買到便宜的塑料英文字母方塊作拼字遊戲用。使用這套彩色繽紛的工具和孩子拼字，既能增加學習樂趣，又可靈活地矯正錯誤。例如家長說

‘man’，孩子拼對後，家長再說 ‘woman’，讓孩子加上 ‘wo’；又如家長說 ‘mango’；當孩子拼對後，再說 ‘mangoes’，但孩子可能不懂眾數規則而拼成 ‘mangos’，這時家長即時加減字母方塊改正錯誤。

### Examples of using spelling cubes



# Spelling cubes/方塊拼字樂



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