

**Consonant blends can be difficult to pronounce. Let's practice on some consonant blends.**

blind	blow	blend	blister	bland	blink	bling
clean	clap	cluster	clamp	clothes	cloth	clue
flash	flammable	flat	flash	flier	flee	florist
glare	gland	gloomy	glue	global	glance	glimpse
slack	slap	sled	slant	slime	slip	slot

**Practice these tongue twisters. Try to say them fast.**

Slick and slippery snails sneak slowly  
Glittery, gliding glaciers mean global warming  
Find a flotilla of floating flounders with flapping flippers.  
Clueless kids clothed in clingy cloaks  
Blue blowfish blindly boarding black boats  
The grouchy groom grew grave

**Work with a partner to answer----which of the words in the table above mean:**

- a sudden quick bright light
- sad because you don't have much hope
- a long narrow hole made in the surface through which you can put things (such as coins)
- burns easily
- hold two things together
- look angrily at someone for a long time
- a vehicle that slides over snow
- smooth and level with no bumps
- mixture
- a sheet of paper advertising something
- elaborate and showy jewelry
- including the whole world
- 2 words that mean a quick look
- hit someone with the flat of your hand

**STUDENTS:** Read the sentences below and tell what you think the bold words mean. You may use a dictionary if you have one. Then lead a discussion of the questions below. Teachers, let the students figure out the answers. Interrupt only to correct wrong answers.

1. I don't like that Blaine **blabs** to his wife about everything that happens at the office. **Blah**, blah, blah, always talking. He's just a big **blabbermouth**.

Discuss: Do you and your husband talk about things that happen at work? Does your spouse share his/her worries about work? Does your spouse ask for advice about work?

2. The kitchen fire was large. The smoke **blackened** the walls. My landlord **blackened my name** by telling everyone I started the fire because I was drinking too much while I cooked the meat.

Discuss: The sentences above use "blackened" in two different ways. Explain the difference. Have you ever had a fire in your house or apartment? Do you worry about people in other apartments starting a fire that burns your things? Do you have neighbors that are careless with fire when they cook or barbecue? Has anyone ever tried to blacken your name?

3. My mind **went blank** when I saw her. I couldn't remember her name, though I've met her several times.

Discuss: Does your mind ever go blank when you are trying to remember something? Do you have a hard time remembering names or faces? Who has the best memory in your house? Are you worried about losing your memories when you get old? Do you have family members who are losing their memories?

4. The police are still searching for **clues**. I don't **have a clue** why they aren't able to figure out who stole the car. Several people saw him drive away. But the police seem **clueless** that there were eye witnesses.

Discuss: Have you ever been an eyewitness to a crime or accident?

5. Be careful. There is a car in your **blind spot**. Wait for him to pass before you change lanes.

Discuss: You can't see something clearly in your blind spot. This can also mean an area that you don't know anything about. EX: I have a real blind spot about politics. I'm not interested in it and I don't like politicians. Do you have a blind spot in any area. That is something you know nothing about and aren't interested in learning about?

6. That house looks old and run down. They **slapped on** a coat of paint to make it look better. But I don't think it worked.

Discuss: Have you done any house renovation? Do you like to watch house renovation shows on TV? Which is your favorite house renovation show? How would you renovate your house if you had the money?