Dear Family:

The concept in Unit 5 of Fundations® is one that your child should grasp quickly.

The sounds of the letters m and n come through the nose and because of this, the short vowel sound of a is somewhat distorted. Therefore, I teach the children that /am/ as in ham and /an/ as in fan are glued together because it is difficult to separate the a from the m or n.

A word such as ham with the glued sound of /am/ will be tapped this way: /h/ touching index finger to thumb; then the /am/ touching middle finger and ring finger (glued together) to the thumb.

/\h/ (one tap) /\am/ (one tap with two fingers)

Make sure your child knows the letters, keyword, and sound for am and an.

Say the letters a - m, then the keyword ham, then the sound /am/.

Say the letters a - n, then the keyword fan, then the sound /an/.

The all sound from Unit 4 is also “glued” together. Be sure to keep the pictures for these sounds with all of the other Keyword Pictures.

Sincerely,
all /əl/ ball

an /æn/ fan

am /æm/ ham
Homework Guide

Review the **glued sounds**, /am/ (as in ham) and /an/ (as in fan), with your child during the next week.

**Follow These 4 Steps:**

1. Dictate the word and have your child echo the word.
2. Have your child tap out the sounds. Remember, /am/ and /an/ are “glued” sounds so they get one tap by touching middle finger and ring finger to the thumb. Do not tap trick words (in bold).
3. Have your child tell you the letters that go with those sounds.
4. Have your child write the letters. It is helpful if you say the letters as your child writes them.

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**WEEK 1**

| Dictate the words and sentence to your child following the 4 steps listed above. |
|---|---|---|
| On Monday Dictate | **Review Words** | ball | fox | quill |
| On Tuesday Dictate | **Current Words** | ham | jam | can |
| On Wednesday Dictate | **Trick Words** | **from** | **does** | **have** |
| On Thursday Dictate | **Sentence** | Mom will shop for **ham** and **jam**. |

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**Note**

Your child might be able to read the following book with your help:

*Green Eggs and Ham*, by Dr. Seuss; Random House, 1960.
**Do the Seek and Find Activity**

1. Have your child **read** the sentences, scooping them into phrases.

2. Have your child **underline** the consonant digraphs.

3. Have your child draw a **box** around the glued sounds.

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**Jill can get the fan for Sam.**

**The man with a tan will shop for a pan.**

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**Answer Key**

2. Underline **sh** in **shop**, **th** in **the**, and **th** in **with**.

3. Put a box around **an** in **can**, **an** in **fan**, **an** in **and**, **am** in **Sam**, **an** in **man**, **an** in **tan**, and **an** in **pan**.
Each night, help your child read all Trick Words from previous units, as well as these. 2. Have your child trace each new Trick Word with his or her finger and spell it aloud; and 3. Cover up the Trick Word and have your child write it with his or her finger on the table while naming each letter.

Cut words into flashcards. Each night, help your child read all Trick Words from previous units, as well as these.
Writing Grid for Word and Sentence Homework

Review Words

1

2

3

Current Words

1

2

Trick Words

3

1

2

3

Sentence

1