



Cover With Your Finger



Learn the Tip

1. **Use your finger to find word parts:** Help your child use their finger to point to parts of the word they know like “ip” or “pre.”
2. **Use your finger to find small words you know:** Help your child look for small chunks and syllables they can read easily like “an” in the word stand.
3. **Use your finger to break apart compound words:** Compound words are words like baseball, lunchtime. They are words that are actually two words smooshed together.

Why this tip?

Tricky words can be very long and intimidating! Kids can use their fingers to cover up different parts of the words and make them look smaller. Then they can look for sounds and words they know.



Ask Your Child

Younger kids

- Let’s cover a part of this word. Which part should we cover up with your finger?
- Do you see any word parts you know inside that word?
- Can you break that word into two smaller parts?

Older kids

- Do you see any smaller words you know inside that word?
- Do you see any word endings you already know?
- Can you break that tricky word into syllables?
- Do you see any words you know inside that long word?
(example: “lip” in *lipstick* or “ear” in *earwax*)



Playfully Practice

Play “Cut it up!”

- With your child, find 8 longer words (4+ letters) in your child’s reading book.
- Write each of them on a slip of paper.
- Then pick up one word. Invite your child to cut it apart into smaller word parts. Practice saying it in parts and then saying it all together.
- Repeat with the next word until you’ve done all 8.

