

SORT 41 SHORT VOWELS A, I, E, AND INITIAL DIGRAPHS

Begin with an **open sort**, asking the students for their ideas about categories: "Who has an idea about how to sort these words? Is there another way?" These words should be sorted by the short-vowel sound but also by the beginning digraph; both of these should be modeled in the group. Reading these words will be challenging due to the initial digraph. Help students look at these words as onsets (in this case a digraph) and rimes they may have seen in previous sorts (-at, -ip, -in, etc.). They still fit the CVC pattern because a digraph is a consonant unit.

Note that *th* has two slightly different sounds in these words. In *than* and *that* the sound is voiced, and in *thin* and *thick* the sound is unvoiced. This difference is felt in the vocal cords rather than in the mouth and is often completely overlooked by speakers of English.

Short-vowel sort:

that	ship	when
chat	whip	check
than	chill	shed
shall	this	shell
shack	whiz	then
chap	chip	them
wham	chin	
	shin	
	chick	
	thin	
	thick	

Digraph sort:

ship	chip	whip	thin
shack	chat	wham	that
shall	chap	when	then
shed	check	which	them
shell	chill		thick
shin	chin		this
	chick		than