

Nonsense Word Change is a catchy little card game designed to help students have fun while practicing short vowel sounds and CVC blending. I typically start out playing the game with my small groups at teacher table and then put it in a work station/center. Play is somewhat similar to the card game UNO. Print on cardstock, cut, and laminate. I do not laminate the kids' version.

When introducing the game, I have students lay their cards flat on the table, so I can see them and guide their choices. Once they catch on to the game (which does not take very long), students begin to demonstrate strategic thinking by carefully choosing the cards they place on the pile - particularly if an opponent is down to one card and could possibly win the game.

When all players have a solid grasp of the game, I let them use *card holders to hide their cards from other players.

I have included a miniature version of the cards and directions for students to play at home. The cards may also be used as flash cards to boost CVC blending fluency.
*card holder (makes 2)
Cut a file folder in half horizontally.
Fold bottom edge up about an inch to form a pocket. Staple near each edge.


## Nonsense Word Change

(2-6 players)

## How to play:

Each player is dealt 5 cards.


The top card in the deck is turned over and placed beside the pile in the center of the table.

Beginning with the player to the left of the dealer, each player takes a turn placing a card to match the vowel sound shown on the pile.

Before the player places the card, he/she must say the nonsense word correctly by either sounding it out, blending it, or both.

If the player does not have a matching card, he/she can use a "Change!" card to change the vowel played.

If the player does not have a "Change!" card, he/she must pick up from the pile. If a vowel match or change card is picked up, it can be used. If not, the card is added to the player's hand.

The first player to use all his/her cards is the winner.










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The Nonsense Word Change game with the orange border (the next 5 pages) is a smaller version for students to play at home. Print and cut as many sets as needed and include a set of directions (above). I sometimes give these out as favors at P/T conferences.



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