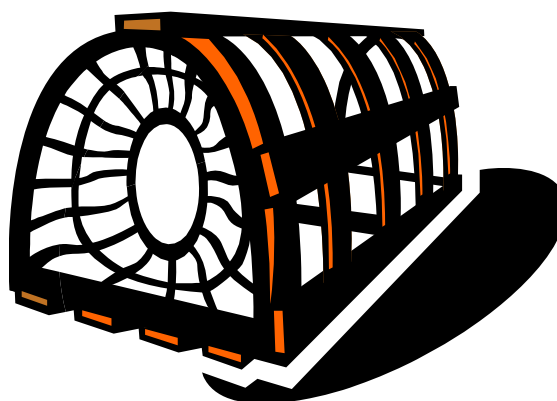# SSP: 3-element clusters: /str/ /spr/ /skr/ /spl/ /skw/ vs. 2-element clusters

strap

chin strap
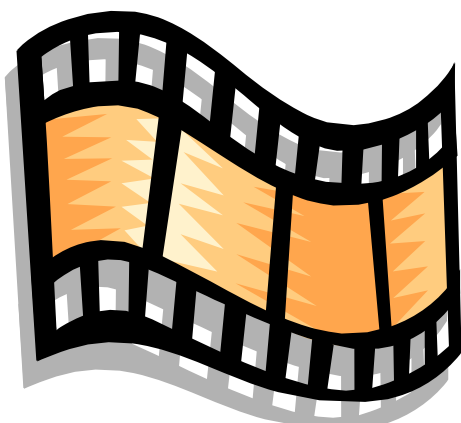
trap

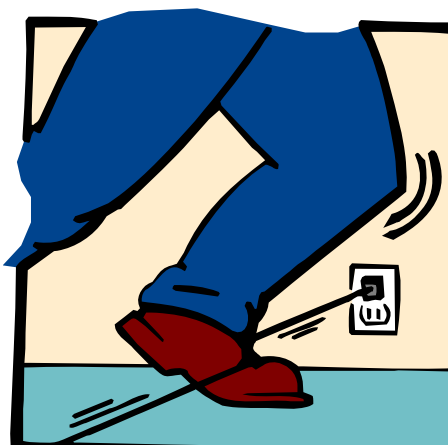**street**

treat

strip

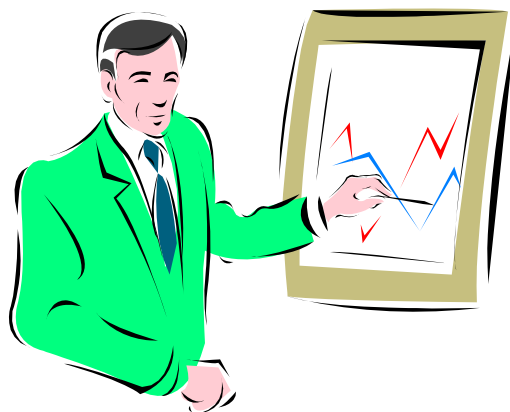film strip

trip

strainer

trainer

spray

pray

screw

crew

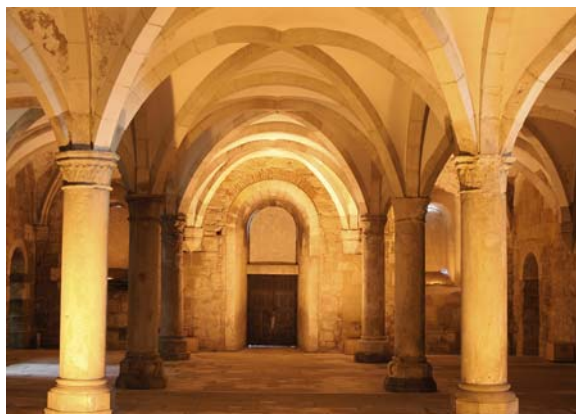# SSP: 3-element clusters: /str/ /spr/ /skr/ /spl/ /skw/ vs. 2-element clusters

scrum

football scrum

crumb

script

crypt

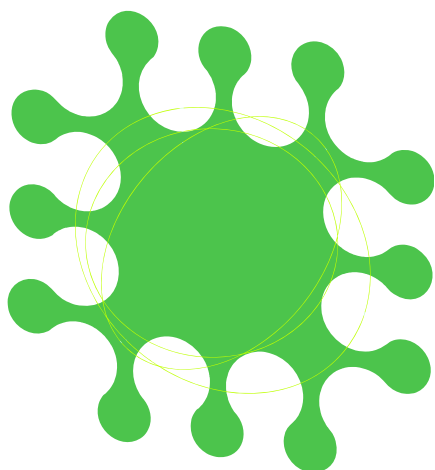scrunchie

crunchy

SSP: 3-element clusters: /str/ /spr/ /skr/ /spl/ /skw/ vs. 2-element clusters
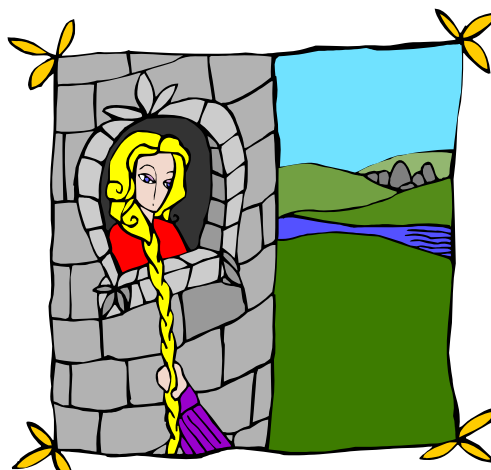

splatter

platter

splat

plait

(braid)
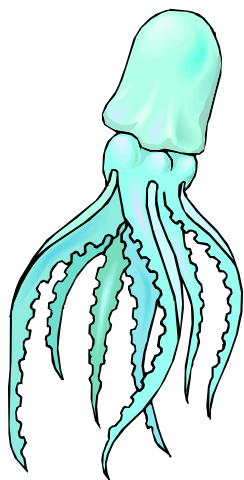

squad

quad

SSP: 3-element clusters: /str/ /spr/ /skr/ /spl/ /skw/ vs. 2-element clusters
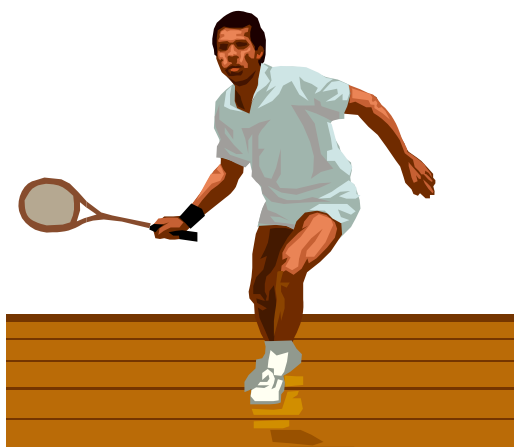
squire

medieval squire

choir

squid

quid

squash

quash

SSP: 3-element clusters: /str/ /spr/ /skr/ /spl/ /skw/ vs. 2-element clusters

	Most Complex		Sonority Difference
⬆	Voiceless fricative + nasal	sm sn	2
	Voiceless fricative + liquid	fl fr θr sl	3
	Voiced stop + liquid or voiceless fricative + glide	bl br dr gl gr sw	4
⬇	Voiceless stop + liquid	pl pr tr kl kr	5
	Voiceless stop + glide	tw kw	6
	Least Complex		

Consider targeting 3-element clusters, and 2-element clusters with smaller sonority differences (2 or 3 or 4).

vowels	**0**	**voiced fricatives**	**4**
glides	**1**	**voiceless fricatives**	**5**
liquids	**2**	**voiced stops**	**6**
nasals	**3**	**voiceless stops**	**7**

Clusters

Consonant clusters are more marked than singletons, but are some clusters *more* marked than others? One approach to classifying two-element consonant clusters according to markedness is to rank them according to their sonority difference score, using their numerical values from a sonority hierarchy (Ohala, 1999). This approach is called the Sonority Sequencing Principle or SSP. For example, /kw/ (7 minus 1) has a sonority difference score of 6, whereas /fl/ (5 minus 2) scores 3. Clusters with SMALL sonority differences of 2, 3 or 4 may better promote generalised change to singletons *and* clusters. Gierut (1999), Gierut & Champion (2001), and Morrisette, Farris & Gierut (2006) provide evidence and target selection guidelines.

Targeting Adjuncts

Note that the adjuncts /sp/, /st/ and /sk/ do not conform to the sonority sequencing principle with respect to generalisation.

Targeting the 3-element Clusters

Prior knowledge of the second element <u>and</u> the third element <u>is</u> required.

The 3-element consonant clusters, /spr/ /str/ /skr/ /spl/ and /skw/ should only be targeted if the child already has the relevant stop (/p/, /t/ or /k/) *and* the relevant liquid (/l/) or glide (w) present in his or her phonemic inventory. For example, if targeting /skw/ the child should have productive knowledge of /k/ and /w/, but does not need to have productive knowledge of /s/.

Targeting the 2-element Clusters

Prior knowledge of the first element and/or the second element <u>is not</u> required.

The 2-element clusters, /sm, /sn/, /fl/ etc. displayed on the chart above, can be targeted irrespective of whether the child has previous knowledge of either or both of the two elements. For example, in targeting /sl/ the child may or may not have previous knowledge of /s/ and/or /l/.

strap trap street treat strip trip strainer trainer spray pray scrum crumb script crypt scrunchie crunchy splatter platter splat plait squad quad squire choir squid quid squash quash