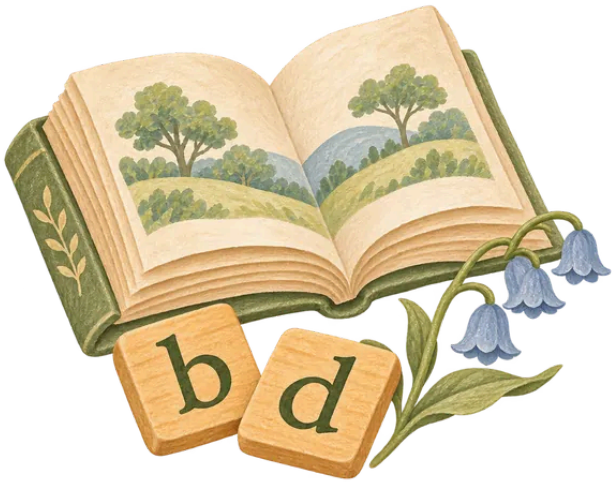
Words you can build

A guide for the grown-up



Choose familiar patterns

Start with cat and dog only if their letter–sound patterns have been introduced. Later pages use the compound words backpack and sunset and the sentences The cat can nap. and The dog can sit. The word the may need an adult’s explanation.

Connect print and sound

Name the picture, then attend to the printed letters. Model a sound or a word when needed. Images establish meaning; they are not a prompt to guess an unfamiliar written word. Ask the teacher which patterns to practice.

Print and use

Print single-sided in landscape at 100%. An adult can cut the dashed tiles; pointing or writing is also fine. Pages 2–7 are activities. Answers are on page 8. Finish whenever your learner wants to stop.

Find the word

Name the picture together. Read and circle the matching word.



dog

cat



dog

cat

Build cat

Say cat. Move the letters into the spaces. Read the word.



a	t	c

A grown-up can cut the tiles. You can point or write instead.

Change one letter



Build each word. Change only the last letter.

cat

ca___ can

ca___ cap

n	p	t

Read each word together: cat, can, cap.

Two parts, one word

Read the two parts. Put them together and say the whole word.



back pack



sun set

A grown-up can model any unfamiliar sound or word.

Build a sentence



Read together. Point to the word cards in sentence order.

The cat can nap.

nap.	cat	The	can

The dog can sit.

can	sit.	dog	The

The sentence above is your model. You can point; no cutting is needed.

Your word mat



Use the spaces to build a word with three letters.

a	c	d	g	n	o	p
s	t	i	m	h		

With a grown-up, try cat, dog, can, cap, sit, or map. These letters do not make every possible word. An adult can cut the tiles.

A note for the grown-up

Answers and ways to continue

Find the word
Top picture: cat. Bottom picture: dog.

Change one letter
cat → can → cap. Fill the blanks with n, then p.

Build a sentence
The cat can nap. The dog can sit. Read the word the for your learner if its spelling is unfamiliar.

Keep it shared
There is no time limit. Name a picture before using it, accept an oral response, and model an unfamiliar word. These pages do not replace reading instruction.

Build cat
c → a → t. Say the individual sounds briefly, then blend cat.

Two parts, one word
back + pack = backpack. sun + set = sunset. These are compound-word parts, not a universal rule for dividing words.

Your word mat
Examples: cat, dog, can, cap, sit, map. Introduce only patterns your learner has been taught.