

Decodable Texts: Digraphs (Beginning)

"This story teaches how chimps talk without words. Help your reader look for beginning digraphs as we learn how chimps chat!"



The Chimp Chat

Chimps are smart animals.

They do not speak like us.

But they can chat.

They hit the ground or thump a log.

They chirp and whinny too!

A chimp may shut its lips.

That means "stop!"

Chimps live with a group.

They help each other.

What would you say in chimp chat?

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

chimp

chat

shut

thump

chirp



Name: _____

The Chimp Chat

1. How do chimps "chat"?

- A. with sounds and actions
- B. with writing
- C. with signs and hats
- D. with paper and pens

2. What does it mean when a chimp shuts its lips?

- A. it wants to nap
- B. it says "go"
- C. it means "stop"
- D. it wants food

3. Fill in the blank:

Chimps help each _____ in their group.

4. How is chimp chat different from how we talk?

5. If you could learn one chimp move, what would it be and why?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Beginning Digraphs – sh, th, ch, wh

Genre: Informational Nonfiction

High-Frequency Words: they, can, with, each, stop, too

Before Reading

1. Remind them of the target skill: We'll be learning about chimps using words that begin with sh, th, ch, and wh.
 2. What do you know about chimpanzees?
 3. How do animals talk without using words?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Support your reader by covering word parts—start with the digraph (like “ch” in *chimp*), then blend the rest.
 2. Watch for beginning digraphs and animal action words.
 3. What do chimps do to talk to each other?
 4. Read the sound words like *chirp* and *whinny* with expression!
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After Reading

1. What are three ways chimps chat?
 2. Why do chimps need to help each other in a group?
 3. How did this story change what you thought about animals and communication?
 4. Highlight 5 digraph words that show chimp actions or behavior.
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read the story again using actions or sound effects where you can!
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Activity Idea

Draw a chimp making a sound or move. Label it using digraph words like *chat*, *chimp*, *shut*, *thump*, *chirp*, or *whinny*. Then write one sentence about what that action means in chimp language.

Coaching Tip

When reading nonfiction, ask your child to stop and explain facts aloud—it deepens both fluency and understanding.

