

b-d-p

Letter orientation

- Written language is directional and dyslexics tend to get confused between left and right, forget which way round a letter goes and even which direction to read from.
- Many letters have mirror images (b - d p - q - 9 m - w u – n) which may cause particular difficulty.
- Students need a 'hook', a trick or technique that helps them to solve directional difficulties. Strategies will help them to remember.

Strategies

- Many students develop their own strategy of using a capital 'B' and 'D'.
- Carry this card in your pocket. Put it next to you when you read or write so that it is always there to help.

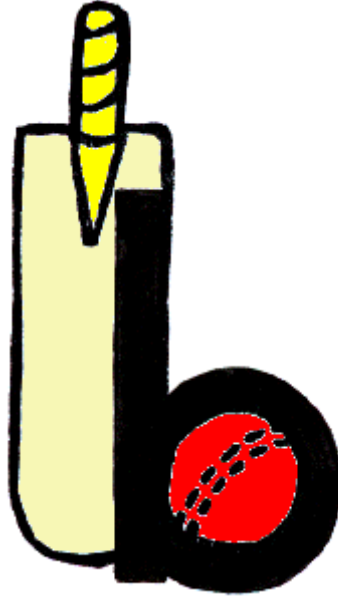


- If the student can remember what the word 'bed' looks like then hold up your hands, put the thumbs together and imagine the word. The direction on the thumbs indicates the direction of the 'b' and 'd'.

b-d-p

- To remember the letter 'b' say –

'First the bat and then the ball.'



Form the down stroke of the bat first; saying 'b'...bat, then the ball comes after it. Each time the student writes he/she says **"b...bat"** making that down stroke first.

- To remember the letter 'd' say –

'First the dog's body then the tail.'



Form the dog's body first (you do not see a dog walking backwards). Say 'first the dog then the tail' – **"d, dog"** as you write.

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Now reinforce these b-d strategies using all the senses.

- **Using a large sweeping motion of the hand and arm write the letter 'b'.** This 'large motor' action will help to give a physical memory of the correct movement. As you do it say 'first the bat and then the ball'. Draw a bat and ball over the letter as a visual reminder.
- **Blow on the window and in the condensation draw a 'b' while saying the rhyme; then try writing in a tray of sand.**
- **Get someone to trace out the shape of the letters on your back while saying the rhyme.**
- **Shut your eyes and draw a huge 'b' in the air, again saying the rhyme.** This last technique is called a hepatic activity and can be useful for helping to learn the sequential spelling pattern of tricky words.
- **Handwriting activities can also be very helpful** in overcoming directional problems with letters. Remember to try and make it fun, perhaps by making a border of joined up 'b's in different colours.

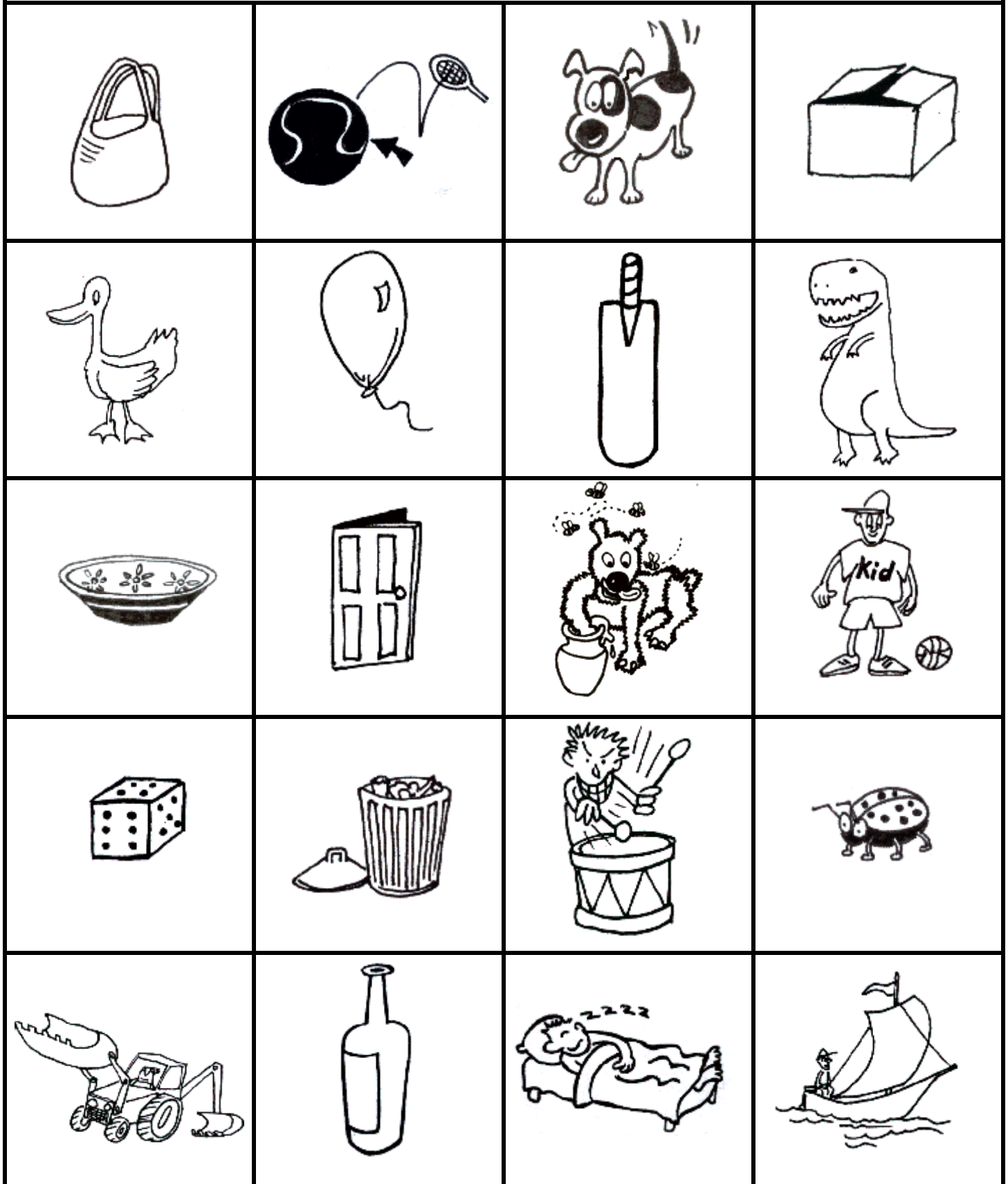
Use the same activities to reinforce 'd'.

Now try these picture-sheets to practise the difference between b-d.

b-d-p

Look at each picture. Which letter does it start with? Write a **b** or **d** under the picture.

Say 'b...bat' or 'd...dog' each time you write.



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- To remember the letter 'p' say –

‘First the pin and then the pop!’



Directional confusion does not stop with letters and numbers. Many dyslexics have problems with left and right. A helpful method of remembering left from right is to look for the 'L' made by forefinger and thumb on the left hand or if they write with their right hand this can be another linking strategy.

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Flashcards - Cut out the squares and stick them onto cards. Use as flash cards or snap to improve visual recognition of b - d - p or use for spelling in a game. Remember to use a strategy to help recognise the difference.



d ad	d id	d en	p ip	p up	p ad	d ab
b ed	b ad	b in	b ud	p in	p ip	d in
b eg	d ig	p an	p eg	b en	d en	b og
d eb	p en	b ig	d ud	b ut	b um	p at
d ip	d id	d ug	p up	d og	p od	p un
b ug	d ab	b un	b an	p ig	p ip	b ag

Quick games using the flashcards –

- How many can be read correctly in 1 minute?
- Play snap.
- Have 3 columns b-d-p and spell the flashcards. You must get ten out of 20 questions to win a prize.

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Try this tracking activity to improve visual accuracy at recognising b, d and p. Scan from left to right finding all the letters b. Time yourself and count any missed letters.

b d b b p d p d p d p p b b p
 b d p p d d b p d d b b d p b
 d p p b d p d d p b d p d p d
 b b p b p p b d d d d b d b d
 p p p p d d b p b b p p d d b
 b d b d p p b p p b p p d p b

time _____ misses _____

Now see if you can beat your time and score.

p b d b p b p b d b d b d b d
 p p d b p p p b d d b p b p p
 d d d p p p p b d b d b d b d
 b p p b p b d p b b d d b p p
 b p d b d b d p b b d b d b p
 p p p p d b d b p b d b d p p

time _____ misses _____

dig pig pop hip dip lip bib nip dad hop lip sip

pip gap map dip pan pat pet bat tap dab fed

tip bob bed beg bug but dog bum but bin bad

pit pup pod bun ben bog lap put did pin ban

bit dot top pop big cop cod box god sad ban

time _____ misses _____

Try these activities again, looking for the letters p and then d.

**For more
help with
b-d-p
join Nessy.**

