

Short Vowel Doubles

Short Vowel Doubles are consonants that are doubled after short vowels in English. They are LL, ZZ, SS, FF & CK. The digraph CH couldn't be written twice, so they put a TCH instead. The short vowel doubles give us words like 'shell', 'jazz' & 'stitch'.

One explanation of why English has these doubles is that they are short or quiet sounds that would be easily missed by scribes if they weren't written twice.

Children with poor visual memory need to be explicitly taught when to use short vowel doubles. The Witch's Spell Story can be used as an anchor while they consolidate which consonants are doubled.

The Witch's Spell Story

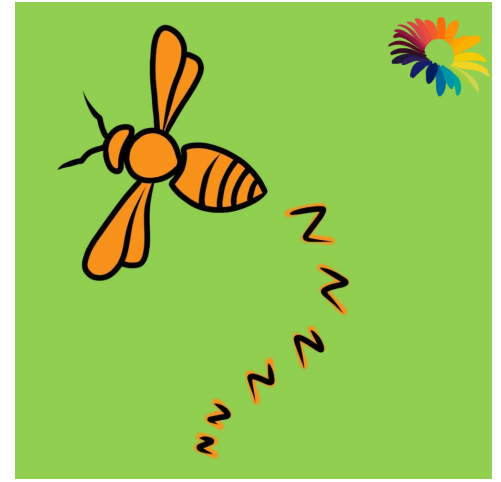
Once there was a witch who had a terrible headache. She sat down to rest but could hear all the bees buzzing. She decided to climb the cliff to see if it was peaceful at the top, but when she reached the top she could still hear buzzing. She went even higher, to the top of the magic rock, but still she could hear buzzing. As she sat on the rock she had an idea. She waved her wand and did a spell. From out of thin air a glass appeared. It crashed down. There was silence. The bees continues to fly among the flowers, but their buzz was trapped in the glass. Peace at last.



witch



cliff



buzz



rock



spell



glass