



What Is A Consonant Cluster?

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In the English alphabet, there are two types of letters - **vowels** (A, E, I, O and U) and **consonants**.

Today, we'll focus on consonants only.

What Is A Consonant Cluster?

A **consonant cluster** is when two or more consonants are placed immediately next to each other in an English word. This is typically at the start or end of a word.

All of these consonant sounds must be pronounced.

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For example;

act

ækt

In this word, both the C and T are pronounced, this is a consonant cluster.

What Is A Consonant Cluster?

There are numerous consonant clusters in English and they can be difficult to pronounce for many English learners. Some languages, such as Spanish, don't have consonant clusters and use more vowels, so they can be exceptionally difficult to pronounce.

What Is A Consonant Cluster?

Sometimes it's just two consonants, like **act**.
Sometimes it's three, such as **spray** (S+ P + R)
or even four, such as **empty** (M + P + T + Y).

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When it comes to consonant clusters, it's important that each individual sound is pronounced and the sounds are not combined together, this would be a **digraph** instead.

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You may also hear these being called
consonant blends too.