

## Word power

**Approach:** One to one

**Level:** Year 4 and year 8

**Focus:** Pronouncing correctly English words that would be unfamiliar for many students.

**Resources:** List of words, masking card.

### Questions/instructions:

I'm going to show you a list of words that you probably haven't seen before. This activity is for you to show me how you work out and say words. As you see each word, try to work it out and tell me how you think the word is said. You can have two tries at each word.

Here is the list.

Place list of words before the student.

Place the masking card under each word as it is presented.

Remember, you can have two tries at each word. If you work a word out in parts or syllables, that's fine. But also try to say the whole word.



		% responses	
		y4	y8
<b>Pronounced correctly</b>	concentration	53	89
	malign	-	25
	dignity	63	89
	knubble	-	67
	fragility	25	64
	amphibious	-	56
	instantaneous	10	52
	hydrodynamics	-	49
	impartiality	-	15
	inimitable	-	47
	interventionist	-	61
	jaundice	9	30

		% responses	
		y4	y8
	marmoreal	26	64
	misanthropical	-	48
	notoriety	-	13
	prerogative	-	25
	stamina	40	83
	suburbia	25	61
	strident	-	77
	venial	-	27
	scared	17	55
	spoonerism	37	77
	stratosphere	-	69
	inconsequential	-	33
	pneumatic	-	48

### Commentary:

Year 4 students were asked to attempt only 10 of the 25 words. A good proportion of students succeeded with regular but unfamiliar words like *marmoreal*, *suburbia* and *spoonerism*. Less predictable words like *impartiality*, *jaundice* and *venial* were handled less well. On average, 36 percent more year 8 than year 4 students succeeded with words that both years attempted.