2-ELEMENT CLUSTERS

FOR THE COMPLEXITY APPROACH

The complexity approach is a phonological target selection principle that prioritizes targeting 1 or 2 later-developing, complex sounds and clusters to achieve overall speech improvement more efficiently. But, **2-element clusters with a smaller sonority difference** between the 1st and 2nd sounds in the cluster are considered **more complex** than those with a larger sonority difference and should be prioritized for intervention. In addition, those clusters with asterisks (see below) seem to facilitate less generalization, so **prioritizing true clusters within the +3 and +4 sonority difference** groups may be expected to effect better system-wide improvement in a child's speech production.

SONORITY DIFFERENCE

2-ELEMENT CLUSTERS

(These **adjunct clusters** have a negative sonority difference and are therefore less complex and not "true clusters".)

Sonority Difference	2-Element Clusters
− 2	/sp/* /st/* /sk/*
+ 2	/sm/* /sn/* /mj/
+ 3	/fɹ/ /fl/ /sl/ /θɹ/ /ʃɹ/ /vj/
+ 4	/bl/ /gl/ /bɹ/ /dɹ/ /gɹ/ /sw/ /fj/
+ 5	/pl/ /kl/ /pɹ/ /tɹ/ /kɹ/ /bj/
+ 6	/tw/ /kw/ /pj/ /kj/

TAP FOR MORE COMPLEXITY APPROACH RESOURCES ON WWW.GRAHAMSPEECHTHERAPY.COM

Graham Speech Therapy

- Gierut, J. A. (2001). Complexity in phonological treatment: Clinical factors. Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools, 32, 229–241.
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