Robot talk: answers and notes

What your child practised: oral blending, which means hearing sounds said one at a time, like d-o-g, and pushing them together to hear the word. It comes before reading words on paper (Reception phonics).

Page 1 · Warm up

u-p **up** · s-i-t **sit** · h-o-p **hop** · n-o-d **nod**

Page 2 · Robot treasure hunt

cup · pen · sock · hat · mug, or your own things. A tick in both columns means your child can blend *and* say the sounds.

Page 2 · A. Draw the word

1 a **bed** · 2 a **sun**

Page 3 · B. Ring the picture

d-o-g **dog** · s-u-n **sun** · h-e-n **hen**
b-u-s **bus** · f-o-x **fox** · m-a-p **map**

Page 3 · C. Robot check

pig ✓ · duck ✗ (it's dog) · cup ✓ · hat ✗ (it's hen)

Challenge: No. The robot said **dog**. Ava only listened to the first sound, **d**, and guessed. **o** and **g** tell you it's dog: duck would be d-u-ck. Listen right to the end of the word.

Watch out for

- **Guessing from the first sound** (duck for d-o-g, sock for s-u-n). Say all the sounds again and ask, "What did you hear at the end?"
- **Long gaps** between sounds make blending hard. Say them again closer together, then closer still.
- **An extra "uh"** (duh-o-guh). Keep sounds short: d-o-g.
- **Bouncy sounds are harder** than stretchy ones. Start with words like s-u-n, m-u-m, f-a-n.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Robot day:** use robot talk in everyday jobs: "Put on your h-a-t", "Get in the b-a-th".
- **Robot Simon says:** "Simon says touch your l-e-g / h-ea-d / n-o-se."
- **In the game:** Chapter 4, Blending Train, reads words on paper with sound buttons.