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The 'shul' sound

Lots of long words end with a soft 'shul' sound. It is usually spelt **–cial** or **–tial**.

1 Learn



Say **special** slowly: spe-**shul**. We hear 'shul', but we write **cial**. In **partial**, the same sound is written **tial**. Words like **animal** end in 'ul', not 'shul'.



spe-**shul**: a 'shul' word

par-**shul**: a 'shul' word

an-i-**mul**: not a 'shul' word

Worked example: does *official* end with 'shul'?

1. Say it in beats
of · fi · cial

2. Listen to the last beat
It sounds like **'shul'**. Yes, a 'shul' word!

3. Spell the last beat
Not 'shul' but **cial**: offi**cial**.

Now try **medal**: me · dal. The last beat sounds like 'dul', so it is **not** a 'shul' word.

Flip's tip: say the word like a robot, one beat at a time. Only the **last** beat matters. If it says 'shul', the spelling is almost always **cial** or **tial**, never 'shul'.

Warm up: say each word aloud. Ring the words that end with 'shul'.

special | animal | partial | pedal | social | metal

Grown-ups: say each warm-up word slowly and clearly for your child. Stretch the last beat: "spe-SHUL", "ani-MUL". Hearing the difference comes before spelling it.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Clap and sort

You need: 12 scraps of paper, a pencil, and two bowls or cups.

1. Write one word on each scrap: **special, animal, partial, pedal, social, essential, medal, official, signal, crucial, hospital, potential**. Fold them and mix them up.
2. The grown-up picks a scrap and reads the word aloud. The child claps **only** if it ends with 'shul'.
3. Put 'shul' words in one bowl and the others in the other bowl.
4. Tip out the 'shul' bowl. Look at the endings together: which are **cial** and which are **tial**?

'shul' words spelt –cial	'shul' words spelt –tial	Not 'shul' words

Grown-ups: if your child claps for "medal" or "signal", say both words side by side: "spe-SHUL, me-DUL". Ask, "Do the last beats sound the same?"

3 Practise

A. Say each word. Write it in the right column.

facial total initial normal racial central essential local

Ends with 'shul'	Ends with another sound

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B. Leo wrote these the way they sound. Write each one correctly. Use the word bank.

Word bank: special · social · partial · official

~~speshal~~	~~soshal~~	~~parshal~~	~~offishal~~
_____	_____	_____	_____

C. Split each word into beats. Underline the beat that says 'shul'.

artificial _____ **confidential** _____

essential _____ **crucial** _____

D. Finish each word with **cial** or **tial**. Look back at page 1 and Clap and sort to help.

spe	**par**	**so**	**essen**
_____	_____	_____	_____

E. Write a sentence using two 'shul' words from this sheet.

Challenge

Mia says, "**Animal** ends like **special**, so it must be spelt **animcial**." Is Mia right? Say both words slowly and explain.

I can… Tick when you can.

- [ ] hear the 'shul' sound at the end of a word
- [ ] tell 'shul' words from words like animal
- [ ] remember that 'shul' is usually spelt cial or tial