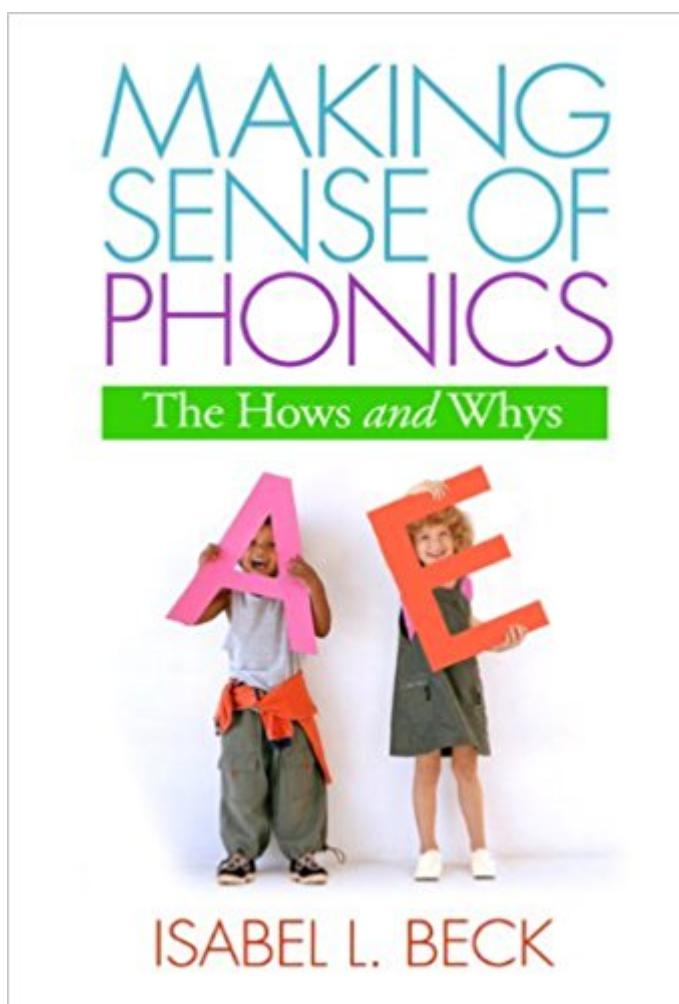


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# **Making Sense Of Phonics, First Edition: The Hows And Whys (Solving Problems In The Teaching Of Literacy)**



## **Synopsis**

From bestselling author Isabel L. Beck--an experienced educator who knows what works--this concise volume provides a wealth of practical ideas for building children's decoding skills by teaching letter-sound relationships, blending, word building, and multisyllable words. Straightforward and accessible, the strategies presented for explicit, systematic phonics instruction are ideal for use in primary-grade classrooms or with older students who are having difficulties. Many specific examples bring the instructional procedures to life while elucidating their underlying rationale; appendices include reproducible curriculum materials.

## **Book Information**

Series: Solving Problems in the Teaching of Literacy

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## **Customer Reviews**

"In this book, Isabel Beck brings the subject of phonics to life in a sensitive, clear presentation, which itself serves as a lesson in how to teach. Elementary teachers who use this book will enjoy reading and teaching from it, and their students are sure to benefit from the author's precise, thoughtful approach."--Sharon Vaughn, PhD, Department of Special Education, University of Texas at Austin "Who would expect a book on phonics to be one you don't want to put down? This is the book I've been waiting for--a straightforward, easy-to-follow, sensible guide to teaching phonics. I can imagine tutors and preservice and inservice teachers using this book both for its step-by-step instructional sequences and the accessible explanations of why they are done. I can imagine this so well, in fact, that I plan to use the book in my tutoring and preservice teacher

education courses."--Connie Juel, PhD, School of Education, Stanford University"Making Sense of Phonics chronicles the personal journey of a reading teacher learning her craft. All those who join Isabel Beck on this journey will benefit not only from her insight as a teacher, but also from her work as a leading researcher. Readers will learn powerful yet simple instructional strategies that are grounded in research. Few educators are as comfortable in both teacher and researcher roles as Dr. Beck. This book is a 'must' for teachers just starting out, as well as veteran teachers who are faced with struggling readers."--Marcy Stein, PhD, Education Program, University of Washington, Tacoma"In a clear and conversational style, Isabel Beck has created a powerful text to support explicit and systematic phonics instruction. Making Sense of Phonics outlines procedures for such essential beginning reading activities as teaching letter-sound correspondences, blending, and word building. Inservice and preservice teachers will appreciate the book's focus on classroom practice, and how the author applies every concept to real students. Teachers of English learners will find that the step-by-step teaching strategies provide an explicitness that helps students master important reading skills in their new language."--Lori Helman, PhD, University of Minnesota"A timely, much-needed book for teachers. Isabel Beck helps sort through the issues related to phonics instruction and outlines a practical, explicit, systematic approach. Written as if you are having a conversation with the author, this straightforward book provides concise strategies for sequencing phonics instruction as well as anecdotes that further enlighten the reader. Readers are given many opportunities to reflect on their own students, analyze student responses, and determine an appropriate course of action. This makes for an excellent text for any reading methods course that emphasizes a balanced literacy approach. Based on research, this book provides needed tools for helping all students become independent, lifelong readers."--Donna Savage, EdS, Literacy Specialist, Newport News Public Schools, Virginia

Isabel L. Beck, PhD, is Professor Emerita of Education in the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. She has conducted research and published widely in the areas of decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension. Her contributions have been acknowledged by awards from the International Reading Association, the National Reading Conference, and the American Federation of Teachers, and she is an elected member of the National Academy of Education.

This book has been so useful in my graduate school reading specialist masters program and in my own teaching! Beck puts things in a simple way and makes it very easy to read and understand. This has helped me help my struggling students in reading and I would recommend this book to any

teacher.

This is the book used by the schools in my county. I bought it to help my daughter prepare for a more advanced school program. We used magnetic letters (like the ones for on the fridge) and an old cookie sheet. She thought the activities were really fun. Using manipulatives is helpful to many young learners. The rest of it's kinda dry if you're not an educator, but it does give you some good ideas for reinforcing phonics. Example activity: the child puts a certain set of letters on their "board" You tell them to put s - u - n and ask them to read the word. Then you tell them to replace the s with an r and read the resulting word (run). Then they can replace the n with a b and read that word (rub). They can replace the u with an o (rob) then replace the r with an s (sob) and so forth.

Straightforward, practical information about phonics instruction. Used in a graduate course, wish I read this my first year as a teacher. It's so easy to read and implement the ideas. The appendix has extensive, simple activities that make a huge difference in kids' decoding skills!

This book answered several questions I had about teaching phonics. An excellent book all around.

This book has great step by step directions for teaching letter sounds and blending. I particularly like the numerous word lists in the appendix that can be used for word building. They are sequential and start with simple CVC words and gradually move to more complex. You can use them with small groups or your whole class. There is also a very interesting chapter on teaching kids to decode multisyllabic words. Great for 1st and 2nd grade teachers.

It is a great book with helpful strategies. It has information on the history of phonics and how it has evolved. It is also very wordy and the print is very small.

Making Sense of Phonics is an extremely important addition to the field of early reading. This highly-readable and practical book provides teachers with the instructional routines and strategies critical to teaching students how to decode words efficiently. This book should be required reading for all teacher candidates at colleges of education around the country and would offer a great refresher course in phonics for current elementary teachers. Dr. Beck's brilliant work continues to move the field forward and improve the quality of education for our young learners.

Great book! This book has excellent ideas and lesson plans.... it is a must if you are teaching phonics.

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