Practice sorting with ready-to-use, durable Word Sort Mats! This set includes 5 double-sided mats and 200 photographic cards, which are perfect for closed sorts. The mats measure 11" x 17", presenting a large space on which to manipulate the photographic cards or write words. The mats are a perfect fit for any desk or large table.

Each mat has a two-column chart on its front and a three-column chart on the reverse side. Versatile format is great for differentiating instruction and provides diverse sorting options. Photographic cards have a real-life image on one side and a printed word on the reverse so that students can sort by either the picture or the word. Pictures feature the following concepts and characteristics for sorting: beginning letters, long or short vowels, blends, word families, compound words, color, shape, and more!

Mats are write-on/wipe-off, so students can add any additional words that come to mind. Write on mats with a dry- or wet-erase marker. Clean off marks with a damp cloth, but do not saturate the mats with water. Using too much water will ruin the mats. Store the mats in the sturdy box provided to keep them in good condition.

**Suggested Activities**

- For closed sorting activities, tell students what they should be looking for by writing the characteristic in each column. Then, let the group use the images to sort by picture or word.

⚠️ **WARNING:**
CHOKING HAZARD - Small parts. Not for children under 3 years.
• For open sorting activities, let students decide how they want to sort. Students write the sorting characteristic at the top of the columns, and then use the images to sort.

• Make content vocabulary word cards to coordinate with topics being studied. Have students work together to sort vocabulary words in a variety of ways.

Put these great mats in a center or work station and the students will immediately know what to do! Watch students work together as they figure out characteristics that the cards have in common!

**Intervention Strategies:**

• **Closed Sorts:** Start off by filling in the top part of the T-chart with a category. Work with the students to find all the cards that fall under that category. Encourage students to write new words that fall into the same category.

• **Word Characteristics:** Always ensure that students are confident in sorting by two characteristics before moving on to sorting by three characteristics. Students should master the basic sort before moving on to more challenging sorting activities.

• **Word Relationships:** Encourage students to connect the spelling and sound relationships shared by known words and new words. Have students ask themselves, “Do I know any other words that look and sound like this new word? Are any of these words that look or sound alike related to each other?”

• **Phonological Awareness:** Read-alouds, singing and clapping, riddle guessing, listening activities, and making rhymes are examples of activities that increase students’ phonological awareness. When students have a strong grasp of sounds and phonemes, they will be able to apply what they know to the word-sorting activities.

**Look for these other great products from Learning Resources®:**

LER 1638 Write-and-Wipe Desk Mats – Venn Diagram/T-Chart
LER 1640 Write-and-Wipe Desk Mats – Handwriting
LER 1951 Graphic Organizer Pocket Chart