

Practicing Sight Words- The Dolch List

The Dolch word list is made up of the most frequently used words. Most of these words cannot be sounded out. Knowing these words along with being able to sound out words will help your child become a more fluent reader. Many of these words are also found on the Journeys sight word lists. The lists are presented in frequency order, so the first words are the words found most often in English texts.

Students can practice reading the words one at a time and then practice reading them in sentences.

The sentences are labeled Pre Primer (list 1), Primer (list 2), 1st Grade (list 3), 2nd Grade (list 4) and 3rd Grade (List 5). The grade levels do not line up with school grade levels. Most students should be able to read most of the Dolch list by the end of first grade.

There is a sight word practice menu that gives suggestions for practicing these words.

You can use the Dolch Words to Read list to see which words your child already knows and then work on the others. There is a checklist that shows all five lists on one page.

Most students do best working on five words at a time. It's also helpful to keep those words in the practice rotation to be sure they are mastered. Regular, short practice sessions are more effective than occasional longer sessions.

There is also a full set of sentences which use the Dolch high frequency words and other decodable words. Reading these sentences will help your child practice the high frequency words in context.

1. Have the child read a set of sentences. (Most pages have 8 sentences.)
Write down any errors. (You can make a second copy of the sentences to record this on.)
2. Have the child practice any sentences where he/she missed words.
3. After some practice, have the child re-read the sentences. You should see an improvement.