

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.





Practice Ideas

Sight Word Practice Menu



Use the following activities to practice your sight words.

<p>#1 – Bean Bag Toss Use an old sheet and write your sight words in boxes. Toss a bean bag onto the sheet and say the word it lands on.</p>	<p>#2 – Air Writing Look at the sight word on a flashcard. Put your arm all the straight out in front of you and point with 2 fingers. Use big arm motions to write the word in the air.</p>	<p>#3 – Color Code Write your sight words using only 2 different colors. Use one color for all of the vowels and one for the consonants.</p>
<p>#4 – Scrabble or Magnetic Letters Use Scrabble or magnetic letters to spell your sight words.</p>	<p>#5 – Shaving Cream Fun Spread shaving cream out on a piece of wax paper. Write your sight words in shaving cream. (Add food coloring for fun!)</p>	<p>#6 – Action Spelling Do some sort of physical movement while spelling your sight words. Examples: hopscotch, jumping jacks, leg lifts, jump rope, v-sits, squats)</p>
<p>#7 – Swat It Write the sight words on an index card. Lay them out on the table. When your parent says a word, swat it with a fly swatter!</p>	<p>#8 – Sidewalk Writing Use sidewalk chalk and write the sight words on your driveway. When a parent says a word, spray it with a squirt gun until the word disappears.</p>	<p>#9 – Tub Time Reading Write the sight words on a piece of thin foam from a craft store. Put them on the wall of the bathtub. Practice reading them in the tub.</p>
<p>#10 – Sculpting Word Practice Use Play-Doh or modeling clay. Make the letters and build the sight words.</p>	<p>#11 – Paint-filled Baggies Fill resealable baggies with paint (tape the top closed) and use Q-tips to draw the letters on the bag. Read the sight word when you're finished.</p>	<p>#12 – Tub Time Writing Use Crayola Bathtub Markers and write the words on the bathtub wall. As you say each letter, use a squirt gun to spray it and erase it.</p>
<p>#13 – Sight Word Hopscotch Use chalk to make a hopscotch board. In each square write the sight words. Toss a small rock onto hopscotch board. Read the word on the board where the rock lands.</p>	<p>#14 – Magic Word Reveal Using a white crayon, write sight words on white paper. Paint over the paper with watercolor paints. The word you wrote will appear, as if by magic!</p> 	<p>#15 – Muffin Tin Time Write each sight word on a cupcake liner and place them in the muffin tin. Colorful cupcake liners are fun to use! Mom or dad can read a sight word from the list. Drop a small object into the muffin tin to cover the sight word. You can also toss a ping pong ball into a cup and read the word where the ball lands.</p>

<p># 16 – I Spy Write your sight words on flashcards or post-it notes. Place them around a room. Have your parent say, “I spy” and name a sight word. You go find it in the room.</p>	<p>#17 – Flashlight Words Turn off the lights. Tape sight words on the wall or ceiling. Use the flashlight to shine on the word and then read it.</p>	<p>#18 – Go Fish Make 2 sets of sight word cards. With a duplicate set of word cards, play “Go Fish.”</p>
<p>#19 – Stepping Stones Write the sight words on big circles. Place the circles on the floor. Walk on the stepping stones and say the words as you step on them.</p>	<p>#20 – Word Hunt Write the sight words on the driveway. Have your parents call out a word and run to stand on the word.</p>	<p>#21 – Concentration Create 2 sets of word cards. Place them face down. Turn over 2 cards and try to make a match. Continue until all words are matched up.</p>
<p>#22 – SNAP Put the sight words onto flashcards or small pieces of paper. Also write the word SNAP on a few flash cards. Put them all in a jar. Take turns pulling cards out of the jar. If you can say the word automatically, you can keep the word. If you have trouble with the word, put it back in the jar. If you pull out a SNAP card, put all of your cards back in the jar. The first person to have 5 (or 10) cards wins!</p>	<p>#23 – Stair Chase Place 2 sight words on each stair. Read one sight word on the way up and keep it if you can read it. Read the other sight word on the way down.</p>	<p>#24 – Beat the Clock See how many sight words you can read in one minute. Try to beat your score each time you play.</p> 
<p>#25 – Eat Your Words Write your words in whipped cream, peanut butter, or yogurt.</p>	<p>#26 – Knock ‘Em Down Write your words on plastic cups. Line them up like bowling pins. Roll a ball and knock the cups down. If you can read a word, you can take the cup. Otherwise, stand it back up. Keep playing until all words have been knocked down.</p>	<p>#27 – Word-O Make a Bingo type card with 9 squares. Write the one sight word per square. Call out a sight word and cover the space with a small object if the word is on the card. The first person to cover all 9 squares calls out “WORDO!” and wins the game.</p>