

ENGLISH · K-GRADE 3

High-Frequency Words

By year group

Why these words matter

Just 100 words make up around half of everything children read. If they can read these instantly — without sounding out — their reading speeds up dramatically. These are the building blocks of fluency. Many are 'tricky words' that don't follow phonics rules ('the', 'said', 'was'). They have to be learned by sight.

Reception / Kindergarten — the first 45

Words to learn first

a, and, are, as, at

be, big, but

can, come

dad, day, did, do, dog

for, get, go, going, got

had, has, he, her, him, his

I, in, is, it

look, like

me, mum, my

no, not, now

of, off, on, one, out



Words to learn first

said, see, she, so

that, the, they, this, to

up, us

was, we, went, were, will, with

yes, you

Year 1 / Grade 1 — the next 50**More words for Year 1**

after, again, an, another, any

ask, away, back, ball, because, been

boy, brother, by, call, came

could, came, can't, didn't, don't

door, down, first, from

girl, good, half, here, home, house

how, if, jump, just, last

laugh, little, live, love, made, make

man, many, may, more, much, must

name, new, next, night, not, now

old, once, open, other, our, over

people, play, push, pull, put

Year 2 / Grade 2 — common words**Common Year 2 words**

about, again, almost, also, always

around, before, began, between, both



Common Year 2 words
children, different, does, eyes, fast
father, find, found, friends, hold
important, knew, large, light, miss
might, never, nothing, often, only
place, point, ready, right, round
small, something, sometimes, sound, still
stop, stories, story, take, talk
thought, three, through, told, today
together, took, tries, two, walk
water, way, where, while, who
whole, why, without, world, would
write, year, young

How to teach them

<p>Look-Cover-Write-Check</p> <p>Look at the word. Cover it. Write it from memory. Check. Practise the ones you got wrong. Repeat tomorrow.</p>	<p>Five a day</p> <p>Pick 5 new words a day. By the end of a term, that's 100+ words. Don't try to do them all at once.</p>
<p>Word walls</p> <p>Display the current 5-10 words BIG on the wall. Read them together at the start of each lesson. Add a new one as old ones become automatic.</p>	<p>Spot the word</p> <p>Pick a word for the day. Whenever children spot it in their reading, they put a finger on it. The teacher acknowledges the spotter.</p>
<p>Word hunt</p> <p>Give children a page from a book. Highlighter in hand. How many of this week's words can they find on the page? (Often loads — that's the point.)</p>	<p>Beat your own time</p> <p>Time how long it takes children to read a list of 20 words. Practice. Re-time at end of week. Improvement is motivating.</p>

