

# High Frequency Word Fluency

**What the skill is:** Reading the most common words automatically, meaning accurately and quickly, with good expression, without having to sound them out.



Phonics knowledge allows us to read unknown words, but some words are read so often that we read them automatically. Reading the most common words accurately and quickly makes reading more enjoyable and allows your child to not be exhausted by struggling through each word.

In addition, a few words don't follow common patterns and are 'irregular' so it's very difficult to sound them out. You can help your child by providing extra practice for the most common words, especially the ones that cannot be easily decoded.

**What it's not:** Just memorizing word lists. It's ideal to be able to read these words easily in books, not on a flashcard.

**Why it's important:** While there is no way to memorize all of the words in English, building fluency with high frequency words makes reading less tiring.

Tools that are helpful when teaching phonics:

- Lists of High Frequency words
- Dry erase board and markers
- Books, books, books, and more books

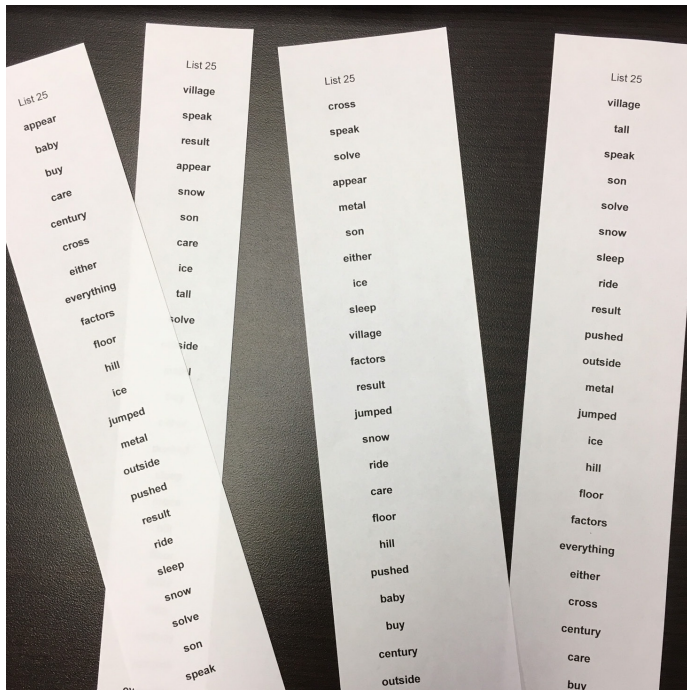
**Ways to help your child:**

Practice reading these words with your child.

Kindergarten - Irregular Words that Occur Frequently in Books:

the	you	said	his	people
to	were	were	do	know
was	are	are	some	your
of	there	because	as	mother
is	one	what	could	who
two	too	should	put	whose
Adapted from Moats (2000), p. 189				

**Fry Instant Word Lists** – If your child is struggling with high-frequency words, your child's teacher may provide a Fry Word List of words that you can work on together. Each page has four columns of the same words and has the words listed in a different order for better practice. After practicing the words on each of the lists, make sure you allow time to read from a book so your child can practice those words in text.



## References

Moats. L.C., Getting up to speed: Developing fluency. (2005) CO: Sopris West

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