Students should be able to complete the homework assignments without any special instructions from the teacher or from a parent. On pages vii through ix are procedures for introducing the Letter to Parents and Lessons 1 through 4 Blackline Master homework assignments.

**Timed Reading**

To provide additional practice in building oral reading fluency, someone at home can listen to the student read aloud. These timed readings begin at Lesson 4. The procedure is similar to that of the regular program timed readings, which begin at Lesson 2. The passage which appears in the second page of the Blackline Masters for Lessons 4 through 65 is taken from the first part of the story from the previous lesson. For Lesson 4, students read part of the story from Lesson 3 at home, and so forth. The student reads aloud for one minute to a parent or listener who follows along and signals when the student is to stop. The number of words read in one minute and the number of errors are recorded, and the parent/listener signs at the bottom of the page. The student returns the signed page to school on the next school day as part of the daily two-page homework assignment.

**Checking Homework**

The homework should be checked each day. The most efficient procedure is to conduct a teacher-directed group workcheck. Students exchange homework papers. The teacher reads the correct answers aloud as the students mark each other’s papers.

For each activity, identify the part number, then read the answers from the annotated answer key beginning on page 131 of this book.
For exercises that require the writing of whole words or word parts, spell the words as they should appear in the answers.

For comprehension items, read each question and say the correct answer.

For activities in which students fill in the missing words in a passage, read the passage aloud and say the word that should appear in the blank.

For some activities, you can call on students to read the item and say the answer.

**Homework Chart**

Keep a record of the completed homework assignments. A sample Homework Chart appears on page xi. Or you may elect to use the chart that appears in *Decoding B2* instead. Points earned can be recorded in the bonus box for the regular lesson. Points could be awarded as follows:

- Completing homework: 2 points
- 0 errors: 2 points
- 1 or 2 errors: 1 point
- More than 2 errors: 0 points

When the timed readings begin at Lesson 4:

- Completing the homework reading checkout: 2 points

**Point System**

If you award points for homework assignments, you will need to modify the number of points required in the regular program to earn various letter grades. (For a discussion of the points and letter grades, see the discussion under “The Management System” in the *Decoding B2 Teacher’s Guide*.) An alternative procedure would be to make the points earned for homework assignments separate from those earned in the regular program and to provide special incentives for completing homework.

The Blackline Master homework pages are designed so that students can be successful. Once students learn that they can complete homework successfully, they will be motivated to continue to do so. If the teacher provides positive verbal feedback about completing homework assignments, along with the use of points, students will be encouraged to do well, and their reading performance will continue to improve.

**Letter to Parents**

A letter explaining the general procedures for homework assignments appears on page x. This letter should be sent home along with the first homework assignment.
Introducing the Letter to Parents and Lesson 1 Homework

Note: Students are not to use the Student Book or Workbook when completing the Blackline Master homework assignments.

Here are procedures for introducing the letter to parents and Lesson 1 homework.

1. Pass out the Letter to Parents.
   Take this letter home. After you complete your homework, have it signed. Bring the homework back to school (tomorrow). Starting at Lesson 4, you will do timed readings at home, too.

2. Pass out the homework.
   Touch the instructions for Part 1. ✓
   I’ll read the instructions: “Write these words without endings.” This exercise is like the one you did in your Workbook. Some of the words will have a final e. Other words won’t. Remember, if the letter just before the underlined part is a vowel, you write the word with a final e. If the letter just before the underlined part is a consonant, you write the word without a final e.

   I’ll read the instructions: “Read the words in the box. Then fill in the blanks.” You’ll use words from the box to fill in the blanks so that the passage makes sense.

   I’ll read the instructions: “Copy the sentences.” You will copy the sentences on the lines.

   I’ll read the instructions: “Write these words with e-d endings.” All the words will have e-d endings.

6. Touch Part 5. ✓
   I’ll read the instructions: “Read the sentences in the box. Then write the answer to each question.” The questions are below the box.

   I’ll read the instructions: “Match the words and complete them.” This exercise is like the one you did in your Workbook.

8. Remember to have your homework signed at home and bring it to school (tomorrow).
Introducing Lesson 2 Homework

Here are procedures for introducing Lesson 2 homework.

1. Pass out the homework.
   Touch the instructions for Part 1. ✓
   I’ll read the instructions: “Write these words without endings.” This exercise is like the one you did in your workbook. Some of the words will have a final e. Other words won’t. Remember to look at the letter just before the underlined part.

2. Touch Part 2. ✓
   I’ll read the instructions: “Match the words and complete them.” This exercise is like the one you did in your workbook.

3. Touch Part 3. ✓
   You’ll read the sentences in the box and answer the questions.

   You’ll use words from the box to fill in the blanks so that the passage makes sense.

5. Touch Part 5. ✓
   I’ll read the instructions: “Write these words with e-r endings.” All the words will have e-r endings.

   You’ll copy the sentences on the lines.

7. Remember to have your homework signed at home and bring it to school (tomorrow).
Introducing Lesson 3 Homework
Remind students to complete the work at home, have it signed, and return it the next day.

Introducing Lessons 4 through 65 Homework
Tell students that starting with Lesson 4 and continuing through Lesson 65, they will complete a timed reading at home as part of the homework assignment. The procedures are the same as when they do a timed reading with their checkout partner at school. The Letter to Parents explains the procedures in detail.
Dear Parents,

Students are expected to complete homework as part of their reading lessons. The homework activities provide practice in essential reading skills. In the daily homework exercises, students receive practice in the following reading skills:

- identifying words
- spelling words with endings and words without endings
- writing sentences
- answering questions about story passages
- building oral reading fluency

The homework consists of two pages. Starting at Lesson 4, on the second page is a story passage that the student is to read aloud to someone at home. This activity provides practice on speed and accuracy.

You will need a digital watch, a digital timer (such as a kitchen timer), or a clock with a sweep second hand so that you can time the student for exactly one minute. The student starts at the first word of the passage and reads for one minute. You keep track of the mistakes the student makes. The goal is for the student to read exactly what is on the page.

Here are the kinds of errors to count:

- saying the wrong word or mispronouncing a word
- adding a word
- leaving out a word
- adding an ending to a word (for example, reading “plays” for play)
- leaving off an ending (for example, reading “start” for started)
- not stopping at the end of a sentence
- rereading part of a sentence

At the end of one minute, stop the student. Write the number of words read in one minute and the number of errors in the blanks at the bottom of the page.

If the student wants to read the passage again, write the number of times the passage was read in the blank at the bottom of the page.

Sign at the bottom of the page. The student should return the two-page homework assignment to school on the next school day.

Remember to be patient. Students who try hard need to know that they are improving. Your assistance each day will help the student improve. The more practice the student receives, the faster the student will become a better reader.

Thank you.