

Ultimate Phonics Reading Fluency Test

This test allows you to quickly check the reading fluency and phonics decoding skill of students of all ages. It consists of a one page word list and three pages of sentences, all written with words that follow the standard phonics sounds and rules of English. Good readers will be able to read this test with few or no issues.

Weak phonics skills are the root of many reading fluency problems. Students *must* be fluent and accurate decoders or they will *never* achieve good reading comprehension. Students who have trouble reading this test will greatly improve their reading level by using a complete, systematic phonics program such as [Ultimate Phonics](#).

Instructions

- ✓ Make two copies of the test. Give one copy to the student and keep one copy for yourself, to record the results.
- ✓ Listen to the student read the word list and sentences out loud and in order. While they read, follow along and make notes on your copy:
 - **Circle any words they read incorrectly or skip.**
 - **Underline any words they read very slowly and laboriously. If they take longer than two seconds to sound out a word, that is too slow.**
- ✓ Pay close attention to the way they read, especially the way they handle unfamiliar words they haven't memorized. The most common issues are:
 - Guessing at words, usually by substituting a different word starting with the same letter and with similar length.
 - Skipping words or adding words that aren't there.
 - Sounding out words accurately, but slowly and laboriously.

All of these are fluency problems that cause poor reading comprehension.
- ✓ After the student finishes the test, on each page count the total number of circled words (incorrect words) and underlined words (slowly sounded out words). Write the count at the bottom of the page. Read the notes at the bottom of each page to interpret the results.
- ✓ If it becomes clear to you that the student is making too many mistakes or is simply unable to read the test, you may stop at any time.



ULTIMATE PHONICS
READING PROGRAM



SPENCER
LEARNING

Student: _____ Age: ____ Grade: ____ Date: _____

Grades K - 1 : Beginning Phonics Decoding Ability

Print two copies of this page. Have the student read the word list aloud from his copy. As you listen, **circle a word on your copy when the student does not read the word accurately, and underline a word when the student reads the word accurately but very slowly (more than 2 seconds).**

Enter the number of circled and underlined words below.

Sid	slat	flit	welt	deft
bin	snag	blip	wilt	heft
hub	swig	glib	silt	rift
rut	smug	glut	kilt	primp
crag	drab	zest	jilt	clasp
tram	fret	vast	bilk	strand
				
sped	trod	hasp	talc	bland
tact	grub	wisp	tamp	scant
prim	sprig	rend	pomp	glint
tint	strut	pent	pact	graft
bask	clan	meld	sect	tract
romp	flog	gild	helm	skulk

NUMBER OF WORDS CIRCLED _____ **UNDERLINED** _____ **TOTAL** _____

Phonics Patterns: Consonants, consonant blends, short vowels

Notes: These words are at a beginning level of reading from a phonics standpoint. The student only needs to know the sounds of the consonants and short vowels to read these words.

A student who misreads and/or slowly reads more than 10 of these words is lacking beginning phonics skills. If the student is in 1st grade or higher, remedial action is recommended.

Student: _____ Age: ____ Grade: ____ Date: _____

Grades 1 - 2 : Basic Phonics Decoding Ability

Print two copies of this page. Have the student read the sentences aloud from his copy. As you listen, **circle a word on your copy when the student does not read the word accurately, and underline a word when the student reads the word accurately but very slowly (more than 2 seconds).**

Enter the number of circled and underlined words below.

The shack had a latch with a lock on it.

Josh got mud on the plush rug in the den.

Chuck can pluck a plum from a twig on a branch.

The Dutch ship went past the French ship in the gulf.

Did Chet clench a fist at Mitch? Did Mitch flinch from the fist?

Nell had a kink in her neck.

Clint must squint in the sun.

Ross fell off the swing, but sprang up and got back on.

Tex will wax the truck and buff the wax with a soft cloth.

Rex can fling a stick, and Spot will fetch the stick and bring it back.

A ship from the Greek fleet sat at the dock.

The men will troop up the ramp to board the ship.

Did Dean wail in pain when he got a bad sprain?

If Gail will keep the soil moist, the seed will sprout.

Hank will groom the dog each week to keep him clean.

The hound will sit on the ground and howl at the moon.

Neal had a sleek steel sled. The sled can speed on a steep hill.

Rick must plod up the path to reach the peak of the steep hill.

NUMBER OF WORDS CIRCLED _____ **UNDERLINED** _____ **TOTAL** _____

Phonics Patterns: Consonant digraphs, ng, nk, qu, x, vowel digraphs

Notes: These sentences are written at a basic level of reading from a phonics standpoint. All the words are one syllable and use elementary consonant and vowel patterns.

A student who misreads and/or slowly reads more than 10 words in these sentences is lacking basic phonics skills. If the student is in 2nd grade or higher, remedial action is recommended

Student: _____ Age: ____ Grade: ____ Date: _____

Grades 2 - 3 : Intermediate Phonics Decoding Ability

Print two copies of this page. Have the student read the sentences aloud from his copy. As you listen, **circle a word on your copy when the student does not read the word accurately, and underline a word when the student reads the word accurately but very slowly (more than 2 seconds).**

Enter the number of circled and underlined words below.

The bashful boy has a tendency to mumble.

The train can carry a passenger and his baggage.

Roy moaned and groaned when he sprained his leg.

Lee had three main points in his speech to the class.

In the rain, a van skidded on the slick street and crashed.

Africa is a continent which is to the east of South America.

Kay is positive that she can solve the difficult math problem.

A plunge into the swimming pool will quickly cool you off.

The city council has a meeting every week to set city policy.

The ship struck the rocky reef and then sank to the bottom of the sea.

The theme of the novel was difficult to grasp.

A lone pine tree sat on a slope on the side of a hill.

The poor conduct of the player is a disgrace to his team.

A long speech may bore the crowd and make them doze off.

A bridge made of steel and concrete stretches across the river.

To do the magic trick, Jake must conceal an ace up his sleeve.

Grace reached out and grabbed a ripe peach from a branch of the peach tree.

A parent must protect and provide for a child.

If you miss a chance to succeed, you may regret it later.

NUMBER OF WORDS CIRCLED _____ **UNDERLINED** _____ **TOTAL** _____

Phonics Patterns: Suffixes, syllables, soft c and g, long vowels (silent e, open syllable)

Notes: These sentences are written at an intermediate level of reading from a phonics standpoint. Common phonics patterns are used, including patterns found in multisyllable words.

A student who misreads and/or slowly reads more than 10 words in these sentences is lacking intermediate phonics skills. If the student is in 3rd grade or higher, remedial action is recommended.

Student: _____ Age: ____ Grade: ____ Date: _____

Grades 3 - 4 : Advanced Phonics Decoding Ability

Print two copies of this page. Have the student read the sentences aloud from his copy. As you listen, **circle a word on your copy when the student does not read the word accurately, and underline a word when the student reads the word accurately but very slowly (more than 2 seconds).**

Enter the number of circled and underlined words below.

Sue drew a pencil sketch of a cute little puppy.

A freighter is a type of ship that carries freight.

Luke couldn't conceive how to solve the problem.

The rabbit must be spry to escape from the sly fox.

Joan must notify her teacher when she is done with the lesson.

When Judy found the lost puppy, she gave a deep sigh of relief.

Because Earl is a hard worker, he is worthy of respect.

The stern judge would not show any mercy to the thief.

A squirrel is a small furry animal with a long bushy tail.

Beth dealt a card from the card deck face up on the table.

The fierce tiger will snarl and bare its teeth when it gets angry.

In a square dance, each person will whirl and twirl across the floor.

Jean has a joyful expression on her face.

Martin has a strong knack for math and science.

Phil must give special attention to a crucial decision.

The reading teacher gave the class a lecture on phonics.

Regular exercise will keep a person in good physical condition.

In the myth, the hero had to use his tremendous strength to move an enormous rock.

NUMBER OF WORDS CIRCLED _____ **UNDERLINED** _____ **TOTAL** _____

Phonics Patterns : R-controlled vowels, advanced patterns, silent letters

Notes: These sentences are written at a more advanced level of reading from a phonics standpoint. Some of the words use less common phonics patterns found in more sophisticated words.

A student who misreads and/or slowly reads more than 10 words in these sentences is lacking advanced phonics skills. If the student is in 4th grade or higher, remedial action is recommended.