

# Letters and sounds: High Frequency Words Checklist

In Reception, your child will be given around 45 high frequency words to learn over the year – the aim is for them to be able to recognise these words and to be able to read them. Children learn these words as part of their phonics lessons and may also bring high frequency words home to read.

High frequency words are common words, **words that appear very often in written texts**. They are a mixture of **decodable words** (words that can be sounded out) and **tricky / exception words** (words in which the English spelling code works in an unusual or uncommon way, which means the words have to be learned and recognised by sight).

It is really important that children learn how to read these words as they will make up a large proportion of the words they will be reading in everyday texts. They also need to learn to spell these words as they will find they will need to use them a great deal in their writing. (Research has shown that just 16 words, such as 'and', 'he', 'I' and 'in', but also the more phonetically-difficult 'the', 'to', 'you', 'said', 'are', 'she' and 'was', make up a quarter of the words in a piece of writing, whether it's for adults or children.)

## (bold=tricky words)

Phase 2 - **Phase 2 phonics** is generally taught at the beginning of Reception year.

a	an	as	at	if	in
is	it	of	off	on	can
dad	had	back	and	get	big
him	his	not	got	up	mum
but	<b>the</b>	to	<b>I</b>	no	go
into					

Phase 3 **Phase 3 phonics** is generally taught in the middle / towards the end of Reception year.

will	that	this	then	them	with
see	for	now	down	look	too
he	she	we	me	be	was
you	they	all	are	my	her

Phase 4 **Phase 4 phonics** is generally taught at the end of Reception / beginning of Year 1.

went	It's	from	children	just	help
said	have	like	so	do	some
come	were	there	little	one	when
out	what				

Phase 5 **Phase 5 phonics** is generally taught in Year 1.

don't	old	I'm	by	time	house
about	your	day	made	came	make
here	saw	very	put	oh	their
people	Mr	Mrs	looked	called	asked
could					

In Years 1 and 2, the list is expanded and includes 'about', 'because', 'once', 'could', 'house', 'laugh', 'people', 'their', plus days of the week, months of the year. By now children are expected to be able to read most of them and progress to writing some of them.

The **next 100 high frequency** words are fully decodable and can be read easily once pupils are secure at phase 5 phonics.

(Next 200 common words in order)

Water	away	good	want	over
how	did	man	going	where
would	or	took	school	think
home	who	didn't	ran	know
bear	can't	again	cat	long
things	new	after	wanted	eat
everyone	our	two	has	yes
play	take	thought	dog	well
find	more	I'll	round	tree
magic	shouted	us	other	food
fox	through	way	been	stop

must	red	door	right	sea
these	began	boy	animals	never
next	first	work	lots	need
that's	baby	fish	gave	mouse
something	bed	may	still	found
live	say	soon	night	narrator
small	car	couldn't	three	head
king	town	I've	around	every
garden	fast	only	many	laughed
let's	much	suddenly	told	another
great	why	cried	keep	room
last	jumped	because	even	am
before	gran	clothes	tell	key
fun	place	mother	sat	boat
window	sleep	feet	morning	queen
each	book	its	green	different
let	girl	which	inside	run
any	under	hat	snow	air
trees	bad	tea	top	eyes
fell	friends	box	dark	grandad
there's	looking	end	than	best
better	hot	sun	across	gone
hard	floppy	really	wind	wish
eggs	once	please	thing	stopped
ever	miss	most	cold	park
lived	birds	duck	horse	rabbit
white	coming	he's	river	liked
giant	looks	use	along	plants
dragon	pulled	We're	fly	grow