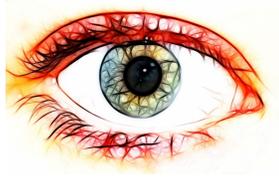


Learning Matters

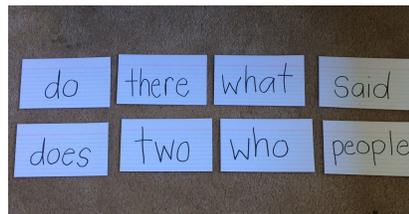
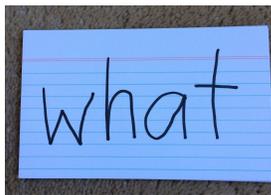
High Frequency and Irregular Words



High Frequency and irregular words are words that appear often in the English language and may not follow the rules of phonology. This means that we cannot always sound the words out in order to help us decode (read) or encode (spell) them. To learn these words we rely on our visual memory. The more times we see these words, and say them out loud as we see them, the more likely they will commit to our long term memory.

Always check your child can read words before asking them to spell them. You may start at List A or start on another list depending on the age and ability of your child. Your child may be best to focus on 3-5 words per week as opposed to 10. Make the learning fun and multisensory (see, say and do) to assist your child to commit these to long term memory. Be sure to have your child say the letter as they write it, then the whole word when they are finished.

Parent tips:



- You could make flashcards for your child to read through each day. If your child has a competitive nature you could lay them out in rows and time him/her to read them, and then see if they beat their time the following day. The aim is for automatic, fluent and accurate reading of these words. Many of these words are frequently used in books that they will be reading at school and home.
- Select one of the irregular words and see if your child can give meaning to the word by saying it in a sentence.
- Choose a few words and write them on post it notes in common places - toilet, fridge, bathroom mirror etc.

- Use a selection of irregular word cards, make double lots and play snap - ensure your child has to read the word every time they see it.
- Encourage your child to copy the word - read it, and then draw a cartoon, or small picture that illustrates what the word means to them.
- Use magnetic letters to make the word. What happens to the word when you take away the first letter? Eg sell - well - fell.
- Put a little bit of flour or sand in a tray and have your child write the word in the flour or sand. Be sure to have them say the letter as they write it, then the whole word when they are finished.
- Window chalk or normal chalk on the concrete is another fun way to write these words.
- Have your child skip and say the letters for the words they are spelling as they skip.
- Play catch and pass back and forth together saying letters as you pass.
- Consider developing a weekly routine for learning these so your child has a variety of activities to look forward to throughout the week.

Please be aware this is not intended to ever be a test but a fun engaging learning and practice situation. You may choose to use the scores to track your child's progress however. Should you be concerned about their ability to grasp these words we encourage you to discuss this in the first instance with your child's classroom teacher. Have fun.

