

# Ultimate Phonics Reading Test

This test is designed to check the phonics decoding skills 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 major phonics sounds and rules of English. Good readers will be able to read the word list and sentences with few or no mistakes.

Weak phonics decoding skills are the root of many reading problems. Students *must* be fluent and accurate decoders or they will *never* achieve good reading comprehension, spelling, and writing.

This test gives you a quick and easy reality check of a student's true phonics skill level. 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 circle any words they misread on your copy.



Pay close attention to the way they read, especially the way they handle unfamiliar words that haven't been memorized. The most common mistakes are:

- Skipping words
- Guessing at words
- Adding words that aren't there
- Substituting different words with similar length or spelling



When the student finishes reading a page, write the total number of circled words (i.e. mistakes) 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 each time the student does not accurately pronounce the word, or if he substitutes a different word with similar length or spelling. Enter the number of circled 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

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CIRCLED (MISREAD) WORDS** \_\_\_\_\_ / 60**Phonics Patterns:** Consonants, consonant blends, short vowels

**Notes:** These words are at a beginning level of reading from a phonics decoding standpoint. The student only needs to know the sounds of the letters of the alphabet (leaving out q and x) and the short vowel sounds to read all of these words.

**Any student who misreads more than 5 of these words is lacking beginning phonics decoding skills. If the student is in 1st grade or higher, immediate remedial action is required.**

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 each time the student 1) Skips a word, 2) Substitutes a different word, even if the other word is similar, or 3) Mispronounces a word. Enter the number of circled 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.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CIRCLED (MISREAD) WORDS** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

***Any student who misreads more than 5 words in these sentences is lacking basic phonics decoding skills. If the student is in 2nd grade or higher, immediate remedial action is required.***

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 each time the student 1) Skips a word, 2) Substitutes a different word, even if the other word is similar, or 3) Mispronounces a word. Enter the number of circled 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.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CIRCLED (MISREAD) WORDS** \_\_\_\_\_

**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 decoding standpoint. Common phonics patterns are used, including patterns found in multisyllable words.

***Any student who misreads more than 10 words in these sentences is lacking intermediate phonics decoding skills. If the student is in 3rd grade or higher, immediate remedial action is required.***

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 each time the student 1) Skips a word, 2) Substitutes a different word, even if the other word is similar, or 3) Mispronounces a word. Enter the number of circled 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.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CIRCLED (MISREAD) WORDS** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

***Any student who misreads more than 10 words in these sentences is lacking advanced phonics decoding skills. If the student is in 4th grade or higher, immediate remedial action is required.***