

# Focus on Phonics

## High –frequency words

High frequency (common) words are those that recur frequently in much of the written material young children read and that they need when they write.

The vast majority of words are decodable once letter sounds have been taught. When children first begin to read and write simple sentences, however, they will need to use common words containing spellings that they have not yet been taught. They will also need to use words that have unusual spellings (such as 'here', 'does', 'was', 'one') These are known as 'tricky' words and need to be learned by heart. It should be noted that, when teaching these words, it is important to *always start with sounds already known in the word, then focus on the 'tricky' part.*

The following is a list of the 300 most common words in order of frequency:

|    |      |    |       |    |        |    |          |     |        |
|----|------|----|-------|----|--------|----|----------|-----|--------|
| 1  | the  | 21 | that  | 41 | not    | 61 | look     | 81  | put    |
| 2  | and  | 22 | with  | 42 | then   | 62 | don't    | 82  | could  |
| 3  | a    | 23 | all   | 43 | were   | 63 | come     | 83  | house  |
| 4  | to   | 24 | we    | 44 | go     | 64 | will     | 84  | old    |
| 5  | said | 25 | can   | 45 | little | 65 | into     | 85  | too    |
| 6  | in   | 26 | are   | 46 | as     | 66 | back     | 86  | by     |
| 7  | he   | 27 | up    | 47 | no     | 67 | from     | 87  | day    |
| 8  | I    | 28 | had   | 48 | mum    | 68 | children | 88  | made   |
| 9  | of   | 29 | my    | 49 | one    | 69 | him      | 89  | time   |
| 10 | it   | 30 | her   | 50 | them   | 70 | Mr       | 90  | I'm    |
| 11 | was  | 31 | what  | 51 | do     | 71 | get      | 91  | if     |
| 12 | you  | 32 | there | 52 | me     | 72 | just     | 92  | help   |
| 13 | they | 33 | out   | 53 | down   | 73 | now      | 93  | Mrs    |
| 14 | on   | 34 | this  | 54 | dad    | 74 | came     | 94  | called |
| 15 | she  | 35 | have  | 55 | big    | 75 | oh       | 95  | here   |
| 16 | is   | 36 | went  | 56 | when   | 76 | about    | 96  | off    |
| 17 | for  | 37 | be    | 57 | It's   | 77 | got      | 97  | asked  |
| 18 | at   | 38 | like  | 58 | see    | 78 | their    | 98  | saw    |
| 19 | his  | 39 | some  | 59 | looked | 79 | people   | 99  | make   |
| 20 | but  | 40 | so    | 60 | very   | 80 | your     | 100 | an     |

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|     |        |     |          |     |         |     |           |
|-----|--------|-----|----------|-----|---------|-----|-----------|
| 101 | water  | 126 | things   | 151 | fox     | 176 | something |
| 102 | away   | 127 | new      | 152 | through | 177 | bed       |
| 103 | good   | 128 | after    | 153 | way     | 178 | may       |
| 104 | want   | 129 | wanted   | 154 | been    | 179 | still     |
| 105 | over   | 130 | eat      | 155 | stop    | 180 | found     |
| 106 | how    | 131 | everyone | 156 | must    | 181 | live      |
| 107 | did    | 132 | our      | 157 | red     | 182 | say       |
| 108 | man    | 133 | two      | 158 | door    | 183 | soon      |
| 109 | going  | 134 | has      | 159 | right   | 184 | night     |
| 110 | where  | 135 | yes      | 160 | sea     | 185 | narrator  |
| 111 | would  | 136 | play     | 161 | these   | 186 | small     |
| 112 | or     | 137 | take     | 162 | began   | 187 | car       |
| 113 | took   | 138 | thought  | 163 | boy     | 188 | couldn't  |
| 114 | school | 139 | dog      | 164 | animals | 189 | three     |
| 115 | think  | 140 | well     | 165 | never   | 190 | head      |
| 116 | home   | 141 | find     | 166 | next    | 191 | king      |
| 117 | who    | 142 | more     | 167 | first   | 192 | town      |
| 118 | didn't | 143 | I'll     | 168 | work    | 193 | I've      |
| 119 | ran    | 144 | round    | 169 | lots    | 194 | around    |
| 120 | know   | 145 | tree     | 170 | need    | 195 | every     |
| 121 | bear   | 146 | magic    | 171 | that's  | 196 | garden    |
| 122 | can't  | 147 | shouted  | 172 | baby    | 197 | fast      |
| 123 | again  | 148 | us       | 173 | fish    | 198 | only      |
| 124 | cat    | 149 | other    | 174 | gave    | 199 | many      |
| 125 | long   | 150 | food     | 175 | mouse   | 200 | laughed   |

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|     |          |     |           |     |         |     |        |
|-----|----------|-----|-----------|-----|---------|-----|--------|
| 201 | let's    | 226 | window    | 251 | fell    | 276 | ever   |
| 202 | much     | 227 | sleep     | 252 | friends | 277 | miss   |
| 203 | suddenly | 228 | feet      | 253 | box     | 278 | most   |
| 204 | told     | 229 | morning   | 254 | dark    | 279 | cold   |
| 205 | another  | 230 | queen     | 255 | grandad | 280 | park   |
| 206 | great    | 231 | each      | 256 | there's | 281 | lived  |
| 207 | why      | 232 | book      | 257 | looking | 282 | birds  |
| 208 | cried    | 233 | its       | 258 | end     | 283 | duck   |
| 209 | keep     | 234 | green     | 259 | than    | 284 | horse  |
| 210 | room     | 235 | different | 260 | best    | 285 | rabbit |
| 211 | last     | 236 | let       | 261 | better  | 286 | white  |
| 212 | jumped   | 237 | girl      | 262 | hot     | 287 | coming |
| 213 | because  | 238 | which     | 263 | sun     | 288 | he's   |
| 214 | even     | 239 | inside    | 264 | across  | 289 | river  |
| 215 | am       | 240 | run       | 265 | gone    | 290 | liked  |
| 216 | before   | 241 | any       | 266 | hard    | 291 | giant  |
| 217 | gran     | 242 | under     | 267 | floppy  | 292 | looks  |
| 218 | clothes  | 243 | hat       | 268 | really  | 293 | use    |
| 219 | tell     | 244 | snow      | 269 | wind    | 294 | along  |
| 220 | key      | 245 | air       | 270 | wish    | 295 | plants |
| 221 | fun      | 246 | trees     | 271 | eggs    | 296 | dragon |
| 222 | place    | 247 | bad       | 272 | once    | 297 | pulled |
| 223 | mother   | 248 | tea       | 273 | please  | 298 | we're  |
| 224 | sat      | 249 | top       | 274 | thing   | 299 | fly    |
| 225 | boat     | 250 | eyes      | 275 | stopped | 300 | grow   |