Phonics word fluency cards

Print at actual size. Choose a small set of items the pupil is ready to practise. Model and teach unfamiliar items before timed assessment.

For each probe, present items in a consistent format, record correct responses and errors separately, and convert totals to responses per minute when the probe is not 60 seconds. Keep accuracy and confidence in mind; never use timed practice to introduce untaught material.

Cut along the cell borders for individual cards, or use the full grid as a practice sheet. Reorder cards between sessions to reduce memorisation of positions.

Check that pupils have been explicitly taught the grapheme–phoneme correspondences needed for the selected words. Use a different set for any spelling probe.

Set 1 · CVC short a / i

Use this set on its own. Repeat items only after the pupil has had opportunities for accurate practice.

cat	mat	sat	pat
tap	map	cap	nap
pin	tin	sit	hit
lip	dip	fin	win
bit	kit		

Set 2 · CVC short o / e / u

Use this set on its own. Repeat items only after the pupil has had opportunities for accurate practice.

dog	log	fog	pot
top	hop	hot	cot
hen	pen	ten	bed
red	fed	sun	run
fun	bun	cup	pup

Set 3 · Initial and final blends

Use this set on its own. Repeat items only after the pupil has had opportunities for accurate practice.

stop	step	slip	spin
clap	clip	flag	flat
frog	grip	drum	drop
milk	hand	sand	tent
lamp	jump		