

Suitable words for testing the skill of blending

Some children, in the early stages, are able to learn whole words relatively easily. The problem comes when they are expected to read books that have many words on the page, little repetition and no pictures to help them remember the words. Then, if they have not been taught or naturally developed good decoding (blending) skills, they start to guess words, find reading hard and become demoralised. In order to prevent this problem developing, it is wise to check on their blending skills by asking them to read words that they are unlikely to have encountered in the books they have read. The following words have been selected for this task and teachers could choose a few of them for testing any children they are concerned about. By carefully watching how each child decodes the words it is possible to see how fluent and efficient they are at decoding, as well as identifying letter-sound correspondences that are not known.

Short words using letter sounds in Step 1

fad	sop	em
dub	frizz	fen
punt	beck	duct
nag	tab	mop
pug	en	fob
muff	stub	tint
hilt	fug	ilk
keg	sprig	sag
rack	tilt	nib
melt	lop	pod
fret	helm	kip
kin	lag	gab
hub	sip	rut
ref	lisp	tog
tusk	sunk	strut
elm	pelt	glint
skiff	tuft	stack
lug	frolic	flit
smog	rim	slab
glut	link	trug
speck	merit	frond
epic	bluff	prop
ruff	satin	glib
trod	trump	opt
nub	dunk	stunt
prim	runt	frank
rap	snub	limp
tonic	slack	skint
dregs	drub	prank
trim	relic	hulk
lint	sift	ramp
tuck	dross	skim
tack	smug	ruck
slop	tepid	snag
rank	slot	prom
kink	slump	smut
tag	pulp	rand
unfit	smock	skunk

Longer words using letter sounds in Step 1

lentil	maggot	patrol
mascot	pollen	gossip
static	ferret	rotten
muffin	titbit	fossil
septic	puffin	mallet
tablet	kidnap	fabric
pellet	griffin	merit
talent	scruff	piston
socket	hamlet	stilts
madam	traffic	kidnap
insult	script	limpet
spirit	tendon	strict
tropic	strand	random
trellis	gammon	segment
drastic	public	triplet
frantic	pompom	instinct
ligament	handicap	spectrum
plimsoll	ridden	suspend
tandem	poplin	mandarin
flippant	economic	inherit
historic	inhabit	mattress
hammock	minicab	signet
prospect	endemic	lollipop
scallop	poppadum	terrapin
prominent	mandolin	sporrán
flotsam	prolific	metallic
sullen	possum	hemlock
paraffin	summit	compress
mandrill	medic	infect
ransom	indent	manifest
simplistic	torrent	impact
transparent	fetlock	stirrup

Short words using letter sounds in Steps 1 & 2

wilt	drool	fleet
orb	fang	soot
raid	seek	steel
tor	troop	tang
jot	wilt	loan
bung	jib	keel
jeer	loan	grain
teem	swoop	trait
rook	reef	bloat
meek	weld	zest
vest	zap	wig
maid	moat	reel
roost	tongs	jig

Longer words using letter sounds in Steps 1 & 2

invest	pelvis	transport
raccoon	tailor	cornet
distort	invalid	junket
obtain	venom	witness
inventor	lagoon	hornet
igloo	projector	livid
pivot	inject	swivel
sibling	disdain	solvent
mustang	ornament	festoon
organ	mentor	vivid
maintain	ordain	platoon
pretzel	inspector	velvet

Short words using letter sounds in Steps 1, 2 and 3

pout	lark	sheer
mesh	vex	winch
toil	spar	quench
smarm	oust	hue
squint	thrift	flux
wax	slouch	err
froth	gash	parch
joist	hex	quill
jerk	shank	darn
starch	tar	perch
mound	sash	void
quell	pox	foul
drench	rout	sheen
plinth	scour	erg
trench	perm	sham
leech	quoit	stern
scorch	moist	fern
joint	pith	lax

Longer words using letter sounds in Steps 1, 2 and 3

quiver	accrue	teeter
parboil	scupper	wither
tabloid	foster	sermon
pertain	tether	exist
marmot	confer	toxic
ponder	swelter	marinet
thorax	dragster	minster
rampart	tamper	ember
lumpish	verdict	sterling
peevish	gumboil	thither
subdue	interact	hither
marathon	tartar	garnish
tabard	camber	embellish
floater	waiver	ferment

calliper
haggard
merchant
putter
exemplar
seersucker
dispenser
impound
mortar
pixel
mammoth

muster
tweezers
flounder
invert
flummox
scarper
extend
spatter
disembark
loiter
hanker

observant
flinch
varnish
interim
miscue
jitterbug
exploit
usher
ethnic
impish
quicken

Short words using letter sounds in Steps 1, 2, 3 and 4

nape
tile
thrive
mode
pike
slate
probe
prime
quake
jerk
pose
jade
sole
gape

vole
dame
trove
vine
drape
quote
wade
vane
twine
gripe
ode
trade
tribe
prune

faze
tone
dupe
shire
tripe
grate
node
lope
site
mope
nave
puke
slake
strike

Longer words using letter sounds in Steps 1, 2, 3 and 4

pithy
raven
tactile
secluded
fixate
impede
stockade
moonshine
stampede
gantry
scullery
interfere
flimsy
navigate
statement
commute
enslave
oppose

inhale
provoke
jetty
proximity
confine
sentry
filly
nifty
ornate
corrode
mandate
cordite
property
oxide
immune
shinty
mulberry
industry

petty
dropsy
pantry
inspire
perfume
harmony
obscure
impose
subside
incline
mockery
module
ministry
flattery
hefty
narrate
rockery
victory

Short words using letter sounds in Steps 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

pry	jaunt	reap
shrew	quirk	haul
fray	singe	phase
yeast	wage	dray
trounce	slurp	heath
paunch	ream	sprawl
taut	logic	fowl
thigh	jaw	sheaf
sheath	pew	lice
quince	scrawl	plaiice
slight	ply	furl
shrewd	tweak	sage
peak	slaw	yew
shirk	mews	prowl
ploy	smear	raw
turf	gleam	hence
lurch	mace	skew

Longer words using letter sounds in Steps 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

placid	quibble	spice
incur	envoy	furnish
sallow	lurch	hybrid
pewter	sphinx	injury
sinew	rancid	dowry
pylon	scurvy	burgle
mellow	urban	excel
fumble	prophecy	furlong
suburb	misplace	sickle
officer	concur	mangy
sulphur	laundry	splice
introduce	preacher	fancy
gauntlet	scuttle	convoy
durbar	mallow	imply
particle	sewer	province
oxbow	employee	justify
squeamish	merger	straggle
hawker	absurd	essence
pauper	saunter	mighty
mildew	outlaw	skewer
pursue	plywood	ounce
coleslaw	sturdy	pincers
weaver	pacemaker	surgery
perturb	joystick	loyalty
shearing	passenger	verger
urchin	leaflet	spherical
manpower	loudspeaker	payment