
LISTEN WRITE AND READ®

Sentences for Sight Word Dictation

A teaching guide and resource for giving dictation

Levels 1-5

**LISTEN
WRITE AND READ®**

*Sentences
for
Sight Word
Dictation*

Paul J. Wickham

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Introduction

For nine years, I taught reading and writing to children and adults in Los Angeles. At the end of each school term, all my students could write clear, coherent sentences and paragraphs that developed a central idea.

The dramatic improvement in their reading and writing skills over a single school term was attributable to the use of dictation exercises I developed to introduce and review the use of high-frequency sight words. Training in the whole-word recognition of sight words is clearly superior to phonics instruction for these words.

This book is a collection of the specific sentences I used for this instruction, arranged by grade level.

The dictation sentences in this book exclusively use high-frequency sight words previously published as the Dolch Basic Sight Vocabulary. All 220 high-frequency sight words are used in this book, proceeding in order by grade level from Level 1 (Pre-Primer), to Level 2 (Primer), Level 3 (Grade 1), Level 4 (Grade 2), and Level 5 (Grade 3). The student should be able to read and write Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 words at the conclusion of Grade 1. Level 4 words provided for Grade 2 and Level 5 words for Grade 3 assist in raising reading and writing proficiency to the corresponding level.

During dictation, students individually write down sentences spoken aloud by the teacher. Students illustrate one of the sentences used in each session. A typical grade 4 dictation session uses ten sentences and takes forty-five minutes. All sentences are dictated while students write them down. The teacher then writes each sentence on the board and students correct their work. During initial sessions, the teacher may point to individual words on a display of sight words to assist students; later dictation is verbal, without visual cues.

Dictation is most effective in improving listening, writing, and reading skills if it is conducted daily over a two- to three-week period early in the school year. After students become proficient in the use of sight words, writing instruction

progresses to more advanced exercises in which students respond to questions about reading material or write descriptively about their experiences. This is a proven strategy for narrowing/closing the reading and writing achievement gap among students.

Equally beneficial results are obtained when these techniques are used in adult education instruction. Nearly all students are naturally interested in and will benefit from dictation exercises, with corresponding increases in conversational English fluency and comprehension skills.

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Sight Words

LISTEN, WRITE AND READ® Sentences for Sight Word Dictation provides a simple method of using all 220 sight words in 115 sentences organized by grade level. There are five separate groups of sentences. The Basic Sight Vocabulary was compiled by Edward W. Dolch, Ph.D. in 1955, and it is still recognized as valid. A dictation technique is followed. Use of sight words in dictation exercises is a proven technique to improve listening, writing, and reading skills of elementary grade students and English learners.

What are sight words?

Sight words consist of 220 of the most frequently used words in printed English, excluding nouns. From 50 to 75 percent of all words used in books, magazines and newspapers can be found in the list of sight words. They are pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and verbs.

Why learn sight words?

By the time students begin to read, sight words are already part of their vocabularies. Some of the words cannot be sounded out phonetically. Many of the words are used to hold thoughts together. Learning to recognize these words instantly by sight is essential to developing reading fluency and comprehension.

How do students learn sight words?

Many students learn the words by reading them repeatedly in context. However, students vary in their learning styles and teachers need a variety of teaching techniques to help them memorize these words.

Sight Word List of 220 Words

a	cold	grow	may	said	too
about	come	had	me	saw	try
after	could	has	much	say	two
again	cut	have	must	see	under
all	did	he	my	seven	up
always	do	help	myself	shall	upon
am	does	her	never	she	us
an	done	here	new	show	use
and	don't	him	no	sing	very
any	down	his	not	sit	walk
are	draw	hold	now	six	want
around	drink	hot	of	sleep	warm
as	eat	how	off	small	was
ask	eight	hurt	old	so	wash
at	every	I	on	some	we
ate	fall	if	once	soon	well
away	far	in	one	start	went
be	fast	into	only	stop	were
because	find	is	open	take	what
been	first	it	or	tell	when
before	five	its	our	ten	where
best	fly	jump	out	thank	which
better	for	just	over	that	white
big	found	keep	own	the	who
black	four	kind	pick	their	why
blue	from	know	play	them	will
both	full	laugh	please	then	wish
bring	funny	let	pretty	there	with
brown	gave	light	pull	these	work
but	get	like	put	they	would
buy	give	little	ran	think	write
by	go	live	read	this	yellow
call	goes	long	red	those	yes
came	going	look	ride	three	you
can	good	made	right	to	your
carry	got	make	round	today	
clean	green	many	run	together	

Sight Word List by Grade Level

<u>Level 1</u>	yellow	that	live	its	far
a	you	there	may	made	full
and	<u>Level 2</u>	they	of	many	got
away	all	this	old	off	grow
big	am	too	once	or	hold
blue	are	under	open	pull	hot
can	at	want	over	read	hurt
come	ate	was	put	right	if
down	be	well	round	sing	keep
find	black	went	some	sit	kind
for	brown	what	stop	sleep	laugh
funny	but	white	take	tell	light
go	came	who	thank	their	long
help	did	will	them	these	much
here	do	with	then	those	myself
I	eat	yes	think	upon	never
in	four	<u>Level 3</u>	walk	us	only
is	get	after	were	use	own
it	good	again	when	very	pick
jump	have	an	<u>Level 4</u>	wash	seven
little	he	any	always	which	shall
look	into	as	around	why	show
make	like	ask	because	wish	six
me	must	by	been	work	small
my	new	could	before	would	start
not	no	every	best	write	ten
one	now	fly	both	your	today
play	on	from	buy	<u>Level 5</u>	together
red	our	give	call	about	try
run	out	going	cold	better	warm
said	please	had	does	bring	
see	pretty	has	don't	carry	
the	ran	her	fast	clean	
three	ride	him	first	cut	
to	saw	his	five	done	
two	say	how	found	draw	
up	she	just	gave	drink	
we	so	know	goes	eight	
where	soon	let	green	fall	

Dictation

What is dictation?

Dictation is a whole class activity used for teaching basic literacy skills. Dictation requires students to listen and write sentences spoken aloud by the teacher. Dictation blends the activities of listening, writing, and checking through reading. This process appeals to students whether they learn primarily in a visual, an auditory, or a kinesthetic way. Dictation engages students by combining the use of several senses at the same time.

What are the objectives of dictation?

The primary objectives in giving dictation are that students spell previously taught words correctly while they write them down in sentences. The results give the teacher some clues as to what ought to be addressed in future classes.

What are the benefits of dictation?

With practice, students usually show improvement in their ability to take dictation. They also show improvement in listening to the teacher, writing sentences with proper conventions, and reading fluency.

ESL (English as a Second Language) students learn to understand English speech and relate what is spoken to what is written. Writing and spelling can be taught at the same time with words the students have learned to use in conversation.

While dictating, the teacher can move around the room and observe each student's progress. Individual or whole class help can be given quickly.

How can dictation be effective?

Dictation is effective when the teacher uses words from the student's vocabulary and sentences that are of interest to the students. Interesting sentences come from contemporary oral communication and are relevant to daily life.

Required Materials

The Classroom

Display of Sight Words
Chalkboard or Whiteboard
Chalk or Marker
Eraser

Each Student

Pencil
Eraser
Sheet of Ruled Paper
Colored Pencil
Sheet of Plain Paper

Dictation Technique

1. Only the teacher may talk during dictation unless the teacher calls on a student.
2. The teacher passes out a sheet of ruled paper to each student.
3. The students write with pencils so mistakes can be erased.
4. The teacher reads the entire sentence the first time at a regular conversational rate while the students listen.
5. The teacher slowly repeats the sentence while each student writes it down.
6. The sentence is slowly repeated until the students have the sentence written down.
7. Once the students have the sentence written down, the teacher continues to the next one.
8. During initial sessions, the teacher may point to individual words on a display of sight words used to assist students.
9. Once the students have all the sentences written down, the teacher instructs the students to stop and put away their pencils.
10. The teacher passes out a colored pencil to each student.
11. The teacher calls on students to read each sentence out loud.
12. The teacher writes out each sentence correctly on the board.
13. The students proofread their own dictations and make corrections using the colored pencil.
14. Once the students have all the sentences proofread, the teacher collects the students' dictations and the colored pencils.
15. The teacher passes out a sheet of plain paper to each student.
16. The students illustrate a dictation sentence on the plain paper with a pencil. This can provide the students with an opportunity to collaborate with each other.
17. The teacher collects the student's illustrations.
18. The teacher reviews the student's work visually.

Level 1

Sentences for Dictation

By Paul J. Wickham

1. Come and see me.
2. And away we go.
3. We can jump.
4. We can run.
5. We can play.
6. It is three to two.
7. A blue one is little.
8. My yellow one is big.
9. The red one is for you.
10. Where is it?
11. It is not in here.
12. I can find it.
13. Look up here.
14. Help me down.
15. You said to make it funny.

Above sentences consist exclusively of all Level 1 sight words.

Level 2

Sentences for Dictation

By Paul J. Wickham

1. Can you come out and play?
2. Do you like to run and jump?
3. Do you want to go for a ride?
4. It is so pretty up here!
5. Will you help me down?
6. Did you two eat?
7. I must say, you ate well.
8. I am good at this.
9. He is up to no good.
10. He will not get away with it.
11. I will look into it.
12. One and three are four.
13. Red, yellow and black make brown.
14. Say what you want, but I like it.
15. Do you have this in white?
16. I like the blue one on you.
17. It is a little too big for you.
18. This is my new one.
19. Please say yes.
20. She said that they will be here soon.
21. They came to see our new one.
22. What did you find under there?
23. We all ran to see what was there.
24. Who saw where it went?
25. Now that was funny!

Above sentences consist exclusively of all Level 1 and Level 2 sight words.

Level 3

Sentences for Dictation

By Paul J. Wickham

1. I am as good as new.
2. Do you want to go for a walk?
3. I just saw her.
4. Do not let it get away from you.
5. Who put that over there?
6. That must be his.
7. That has to be him.
8. What we live on is round.
9. What is it like to fly?
10. I will give you a ride.
11. Are you any good at this?
12. I know who we can ask.
13. What do you think?
14. Then what do we do?
15. What do we do after that?
16. We did it once, and we could do it again.
17. We did what we had to do.
18. May I please get by?
19. When is it going to stop?
20. Open it up and see what it is.
21. I like every one of them.
22. Do you want to take some with you?
23. How can I thank you?
24. Where were you?
25. That is an old one.

Above sentences consist exclusively of all Level 3 sight words
and Level 1 and Level 2 sight words as needed.

Level 4

Sentences for Dictation

By Paul J. Wickham

1. Where can we wash up?
2. You go first because you are fast.
3. Can you read and write?
4. Blue goes with green.
5. Two and three are five.
6. Which of you made this?
7. How does he do that?
8. I like both of these.
9. Where did you buy those?
10. Who gave that to you?
11. Look what I found!
12. What do you see off to your right?
13. Do as many as you can.
14. There is always work to do around here.
15. This is work at its best.
16. Have you been here before?
17. Why don't we sit over there?
18. Is it cold out here, or is it just me?
19. Will you pull me?
20. They call upon us.
21. That is their right.
22. What would you like to sing?
23. I have to tell you this.
24. You look like you could use some sleep.
25. We wish you the very best.

Above sentences consist exclusively of all Level 4 sight words
and Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 sight words as needed.

Level 5

Sentences for Dictation

By Paul J. Wickham

1. It is going to get hot today.
2. What did you bring to drink?
3. We are off to a good start together.
4. He is only going to get better.
5. Eight take away six is two.
6. Seven and three are ten.
7. Did you read it in full?
8. We shall soon find out.
9. Will you help me carry this?
10. Who said that this was light?
11. You have been very kind.
12. Will you show me how to draw?
13. May I hold one?
14. Pick any one you want.
15. You are too small to ride this.
16. If you fall, you could get hurt.
17. I was about to clean up.
18. How much do you want cut off?
19. Put this around you to keep warm.
20. Try not to take too long.
21. I grow these myself.
22. How far did you get on your own?
23. It has never been done before.
24. The big one got away.
25. We all had a good laugh.

Above sentences consist exclusively of all Level 5 sight words and Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4 sight words as needed.

Appendix A

Display of Sight Words

All sight words are shown on the following pages, organized by grade level. During initial sessions, the teacher may point to individual words on a display of sight words used to assist students.

Level 1 Sight Word List

a	l	run
and	in	said
away	is	see
big	it	the
blue	jump	three
can	little	to
come	look	two
down	make	up
find	me	we
for	my	where
funny	not	yellow
go	one	you
help	play	
here	red	

Level 2 Sight Word List

all	into	that
am	like	there
are	must	they
at	new	this
ate	no	too
be	now	under
black	on	want
brown	our	was
but	out	well
came	please	went
did	pretty	what
do	ran	white
eat	ride	who
four	saw	will
get	say	with
good	she	yes
have	so	
he	soon	

Level 3 Sight Word List

after	has	over
again	her	put
an	him	round
any	his	some
ask	how	stop
as	just	take
by	know	thank
could	let	them
every	live	then
fly	may	think
from	of	walk
give	old	were
going	once	when
had	open	

Level 4 Sight Word List

always	gave	these
around	goes	those
because	green	upon
been	its	us
before	made	use
best	many	very
both	off	wash
buy	or	which
call	pull	why
cold	read	wish
does	right	work
don't	sing	would
fast	sit	write
first	sleep	your
five	tell	
found	their	

**Level 5
Sight Word List**

about	grow	own
better	hold	pick
bring	hot	seven
carry	hurt	shall
clean	if	show
cut	keep	six
done	kind	small
draw	laugh	start
drink	light	ten
eight	long	today
fall	much	together
far	myself	try
full	never	warm
got	only	