ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Sight words

Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how a young reader learns to recognise common words like the and said at a glance, so reading flows instead of stopping at every word. A child who knows the most common words by sight can read a whole sentence smoothly instead of sounding out every single word. A teacher practising sight words with flashcards is building the speed that makes reading feel easy. Knowing sight words tells you how to read the words that show up on nearly every page without slowing down to decode them.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Read the sight word on the card: the. Why do you have to learn it by sight?

SOLUTION

This is a sight-word question, so ask whether the word can be sounded out. The word the has th, which does not sound like the letters, and a vowel sound that does not follow the rules.

If you try to sound it out, you will not get the right word. That is what makes it a sight word.

So the word is the, and you learn it by seeing it and remembering it whole, not by sounding it out.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Read the sight word on the card: said. What does it sound like, and what does it look like?

SOLUTION

This is a sight-word question, so look at the letters and listen to the sound. Said is spelled s-a-i-d, which looks like paid, but it is said out loud like sed.

The spelling does not match the sound, so sounding it out will not work.

So the word is said, and you learn it by sight, because it looks like paid but sounds like sed.

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Practice questions

1 Spot the sight word in this sentence: The cat sat.

- A cat
- B The
- C sat
- D and

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2 Can ___ come and play? Add the missing sight word.

- A for
- B said
- C you
- D with

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3 This gift is ___ you. Which sight word completes the sentence?

- A for
- B you
- C said
- D they

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4 Which sight word starts this question: ___ is your name?

- A They
- B have
- C come
- D What

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5 ___ are my friends. Write the sight word that completes the sentence.

- **A** They
- **B** What
- **C** have
- **D** this

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6 I ___ a red bike. What is the missing sight word?

- **A** with
- **B** have
- **C** for
- **D** said

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7 Come ___ me to the park. Choose the sight word that fits.

- A you
- B they
- C with
- D have

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8 Why do you have to learn the word 'the' by sight?

- A The letters do not sound like the word
- B It is a very long word
- C It has no vowels
- D It is spelled backwards

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9 **Which of these is NOT a sight word you learn by sight: cat, the, said?**

- **A** cat
- **B** the
- **C** said
- **D** come

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10 **Write the sight word that means the opposite of go: Please ___ here.**

- **A** go
- **B** come
- **C** said
- **D** with

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ANSWER KEY

1. The

2. you

3. for

4. What

5. They

6. have

7. with

8. The letters do not sound like the word

9. cat

10. come

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