

Word Decoding Assessment Directions

What it is and how we hope you use it:

A word decoding assessment helps uncover what students know about phonics in isolation, without the support of context. Our word decoding assessment does not have nonsense words on it, but we did purposely choose low frequency words so that students would have to rely on their knowledge of the phonics principle to read the word, rather than their knowledge of that particular word. Nonsense words, however, can also be useful.

We suggest that if students pass a phonics principle section on the word decoding assessment you also conduct a decodable book assessment to observe how a student reads words in context as well. Our hope is that you use the word decoding assessment and the decodable book assessments to inform your whole class instruction as well as your small group instruction, reteaching and reviewing phonics principles until students are able to master them in isolation and in context.

How to administer the word decoding assessment:

1. Place the student-facing list in front of students. Point to the first word on the list and direct students to read top to bottom, then left to right.

Before starting the assessment you might say something like:

"I'm looking forward to learning more about you as a reader. Listening to you read these words will help me know what to teach you. If you know the word right away, go ahead and read it, but you can also sound it out if you need to. If you don't know a word, don't worry, that just shows me what I need to teach."

2. If the student gets the word correct, check the box on the recording form next to that word. If the student gets the word incorrect, write what they said next to the word. If they don't say anything, make an X mark next to the word.
3. If a student gets 5 or more words incorrect in a row, stop the assessment.
4. If a student passes the section, move on to the next section. If a student does not pass that section, stop the assessment there.

Some things to consider when administering the word decoding assessment:

- Administer the word decoding assessment only when students know more than 20 letters and sounds according to a Letter/Sound ID assessment.
- When working with second graders or above, start with the multisyllabic word section and work backwards if students do not pass that section. Stop when students are able to pass a section.

CVC Word Decoding Assessment

map	sit	log	yes	mud
cab	win	hot	vet	run
rag	kid	fox	ten	hug
pat	rim	top	set	gum
Short a: /4	Short i: /4	Short o: /4	Short e: /4	Short u: /4

Total Score:

A passing score is 80% or 16/20.

Digraph Word Decoding Assessment

thud	shed	chat	whip	sack
them	shop	chin	when	lock
moth	rush	much		
bath	sash			
th: /4	sh: /4	ch: /3	wh: /2	ck: /2

Total Score:

A passing score is 80% or 12/15.

Words With Blends Word Decoding Assessment

sped	pest	blank	scrimp
flap	rang	cling	strong
club	silk	stamp	
grim	bend	swept	
blot	soft	crest	
drip	dent	branch	
Beginning blends with 4 phonemes: /6	Ending blends with 4 phonemes): /6	5 phonemes: /6	6 phonemes: /2

Total Score:

A passing score is 80% or 16/20

CVCe Word Decoding Assessment

lane	vine	home	rule	here
cape	lime	poke	cute	Pete
shade	wipe	nose	tube	
			fume	
a_e: /3	i_e: /3	o_e: /3	u_e: /4	e_e: /2

Total Score:

A passing score is 80% or 12/15.

Long Vowel Patterns Word Decoding Assessment

vain	sigh	loaf	keen	swoon
clay	lies	blown	least	newt
trail	bright	coal	seep	gloom
spray	pry	growth	steal	flue
Long a: /4	Long i: /4	Long o: /4	Long e: /4	Long u: /4

Total Score:**A passing score is 80% or 16/20.****R-Controlled Vowels Word Decoding Assessment**

lard	port	verb	fir	curd
hark	bore	berg	gird	furl
garb	horn	perk	stir	blurt
tart	snore	stern	twirl	slurp
ar: /4	or: /4	er: /4	ir: /4	ur: /4

Total Score:**A passing score is 80% or 16/20.**

Advanced Vowel Patterns Word Decoding Assessment

Use this assessment if you do not already have an assessment on phonic decoding.

gawk	bush	deaf	hoist	crouch
fraught	crook	dreamt	coy	cowl
maw	hoof	thread	broil	brow
stalk	stood	dealt	groin	pout
al,aw,augh: /4	oo, u: /4	ea: /4	oi,oy: /4	ou,ow: /4

Total Score:

A passing score is 80% or 16/20.

Multisyllabic Word Decoding Assessment

Use this assessment if you do not already have an assessment on phonic decoding.

contest	exclude	pattern	fiddle	banister
icon	concave	burlap	rustle	befuddle
public	teaspoon			dedicate
prudent	degree			
Closed and open: /4	Silent e, vowel team: /4	R controlled: /2	Consonant -le: /2	Multisyllable: /3

Total Score:

A passing score is 80% or 12/15.

Student-Facing Assessment: CVC

map	sit	log	yes	mud
cab	win	hot	vet	run
rag	kid	fox	ten	hug
pat	rim	top	set	gum

Student-Facing Assessment: Digraphs

thud	shed	chat	whip	sack
them	shop	chin	when	lock
moth	rush	chum		
bath	sash			

Student-Facing Assessment: Blends

sped	pest	blank	scrimp
flap	rang	cling	strong
club	silk	stamp	
grim	bend	swept	
blot	soft	crest	
drip	dent	branch	

Student-Facing Assessment: CVCe

lane	vine	home	rule	here
cape	lime	poke	cute	Pete
shade	wipe	nose	tube	
			fume	

Student-Facing Assessment: Long Vowel Patterns

vain	sigh	loaf	keen	swoon
clay	lies	blown	least	newt
trail	bright	coal	seep	gloom
spray	pry	growth	steal	flue

Student-Facing Assessment: R-Controlled Vowels

lard	port	verb	fir	curd
hark	bore	berg	gird	furl
garb	horn	perk	stir	blurt
tart	snore	stern	twirl	slurp

Student-Facing Assessment: Advanced Vowel Patterns

gawk	bush	deaf	hoist	crouch
fraught	crook	dreamt	coy	cowl
maw	hoof	thread	broil	brow
stalk	stood	dealt	groin	pout

Student-Facing Assessment: Multisyllabic Words

contest	exclude	pattern	fiddle	banister
icon	concave	burlap	rustle	befuddle
public	teaspoon			dedicate
prudent	degree			