



## Schertz Cibolo Universal City ISD

### High Frequency Words

### Kinder-4<sup>th</sup> Grades

A core of known high frequency words is a valuable resource as students build their reading and writing processes. High frequency words (HFW) are quite simply those words which occur most frequently in spoken and written language. For example, 'and', 'the', 'as', and 'it'. HFW often have little meaning on their own, but they do contribute a great deal to the meaning of a sentence.



Did you know that many of the high frequency words that we teach students to memorize actually follow regular phonetic patterns? Some examples include the words 'can', 'he', 'came', 'no', and 'play'. Typically, these high-frequency words are taught as “sight words” and are not included in phonics lessons but they could be! Supporting students in their use of letter/sound correspondences, syllable types, and spelling rules gives them opportunities to integrate and practice these skills while reducing rote memorization of each word’s visual letter string.

Keep in mind, high frequency words are high utility words early readers can use strategically while problem solving other words. As a result, these words give our readers an opportunity to learn how to use known letters, words, spelling patterns, word structures, and word meanings to learn and/or solve new words; and use them as resources to read and write other words. The value of these words to readers and writers goes beyond just reading them with automaticity. So, the goal is not for students to memorize these words or get too hung up on the number of words students can recite from memory. Instead, it is important to teach students to become word solvers.

By becoming conscious word solvers, young readers notice words that appear frequently in the simple texts they read and eventually their recognition of these words becomes automatic. In this way, their reading becomes efficient, enabling them to decode words using phonics as well as attend to comprehension. Readers can use high frequency words to check on the accuracy of their reading and as resources for solving other words. For example, the word 'this' starts like 'the' or the word 'am' is within 'stamp'. In general, readers learning simpler words earlier leads to developing an efficient system for acquiring new words in their language repertoire. This increases their own sight word database by continuously adding to the core of words they know. Lessons on high frequency words helps our readers to look carefully at words and develop efficient systems for word recognition.

Pinnell, G. S., Fountas, I.C. (2017). *When Readers Struggle: Teaching That Works*. Chicago: Heinemann.



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ELAR TEKS Reading Strand Vertical Alignment		
<b>Reading/Beginning Reading Skills/Phonics.</b> (Grades K, 3) Students use the relationships between letters and sounds, spelling patterns, and morphological analysis to decode written English. Students are expected to: (Grades 1, 2) Students use the relationships between letters and sounds, spelling patterns, and morphological analysis to decode written English. Students will continue to apply earlier standards with greater depth in increasingly more complex texts. Students are expected to:		
Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
K.3D identify and read at least 25 high-frequency words from a commonly used list	1.3H identify and read at least 100 high-frequency words from a commonly used list	2.2G identify and read at least 300 high-frequency words from a commonly used list

High Frequency Words	Irregular (Heart) Words	Sight Words
Most commonly used words in spoken and written English language. Over 50 percent of all text is comprised of high frequency words. High frequency words include words with phonetic patterns and irregular words. High frequency words become sight words when recognized and read with automaticity.	Words that do not follow phonics patterns. The spellings of about three-fourths of our most frequently occurring words are regular, or pattern-based, while only about one-fourth are truly irregular. Words such as <i>the, is, to</i> and <i>are</i> , do not follow commonly taught phonics rules and cannot be sounded out. These words typically have to be memorized in order to become sight words. Irregular words are indicated by an asterisks (*) on our high frequency word lists.	Sight words are any word recognized and read with automaticity (without having to sound them out). Keep in mind, any word becomes a sight word once it is read and written with automaticity.

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Words for our high frequency word lists were adapted from:

- Pinnell, G.S., Fountas, I.C., & Jacobbe, M.E. (1998). *Word matters: teaching phonics and spelling in the reading/writing classroom*. Chicago: Heinemann.
- Fry's Complete 1,000 Word List retrieved from [http://bjh.dadeschools.net/assets/fry\\_complete\\_1000.pdf](http://bjh.dadeschools.net/assets/fry_complete_1000.pdf)



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**Kinder-4<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**KINDERGARTEN**

**High Frequency Words**

a*	am	an	and	at	can	do*	go	he
I	in	is*	it	like	me	my	no	see
so	the*	said*	to*	up	we	you*		

**Kindergarten Extension List 1**

zero	one*	two*	three	four*	five	six	seven	eight
nine	ten	all	but	could*	down	has	her	him
how	make	of*	they*	this	was*	with	went	your*

**Kindergarten Extension List 2**

are	because*	came	day	eat	friend*	from*	give*	have*
his*	into*	know*	more	not	new	nice	our	over
saw	people*	that	under	want*	were*	when	which	why

**\*Words that do not fit into spelling patterns (Irregular 'Heart' Words)**

**Note:** 25 high-frequency words is the minimum number established by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Kindergarten students will gain far more than 25 high-frequency words during their kindergarten school year. The extension list is intended as challenge words for students who can read and write the kindergarten high frequency words with automaticity.



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**High Frequency Words**  
**Kinder-4<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**First Grade High Frequency Words**

Unit 00 Kinder List	Unit 01	Unit 02/03	Unit 03/04	Unit 05
a*	all	any*	back	after
am	are*	ask	been*	because*
an	as	boy	came	car
and	be	but	can't	could*
at	big	come*	going	down
can	by	eat	have*	friend*
do*	day	girl	here	from*
go	did	give*	house	her
he	for	good	jump	more
I	fun	help	know*	rain
in	get	his*	look	other*
is	had	how	made	our
it	has	into*	make	over
like	him	just	much	school*
me	if	little	nice	teacher
my	not	new	night	too
no	of*	off*	people*	thing
see	on	old*	quit	under
so	put*	play	ride	very*
the*	saw	that	there*	were*
said*	she	them	they*	where*
to*	tell	then	this	which
up	us	went	walk*	who*
we	was*	what*	want*	why
you*	will	when	with	your*

**First Grade Extension List 1**

above*	before	better	don't	every	favorite	going	held	house
laugh*	learn*	long	mother*	name	once*	own	open	own
paper	picture	please	should*	soon	thank	think	work*	write

**First Grade Extension List 2**

able	across	almost*	become*	behind*	both*	city	door	fast
hide	home	most*	only*	place	room	sleep	some*	stay
story	think	those	though*	today*	week	would*	write	year

**\*Words that do not fit into spelling patterns (Irregular 'Heart' Words)**

**Note:** 100 high-frequency words is the minimum number established by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). However, 1<sup>st</sup> grade students will gain far more than 100 high-frequency words during their 1<sup>st</sup> grade year school year. The extension list is intended as challenge words for students who can read and write the 1<sup>st</sup> grade high frequency words with automaticity.



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**Second Grade High Frequency Words**

able	clean	grew	once*	street
about	close	grow	only*	study
above*	could*	hand	open	such
across	dark	happy	order	sure*
air	dear	held	own	take
along	deep	hide	page	talk*
almost*	different*	home	paper	thank
also	didn't	inside	part	their*
always	done*	kind*	party	think
among	don't	knew	pick	third
answer*	door	land	picture	these
another*	draw	large	place	though*
anything	during	laugh*	please	those
around	each	last	point	today*
away	early*	learn*	right	together*
ate	enough*	leave	room	tomorrow
become*	even	letter	same	turn
before	every	light	second	until
begin	fast	line	seen	teach
behind*	father*	live*	sentence	view
best	favorite	long	should*	wait
better	feel	main	show	watch*
between	find*	mean	sky	week
book	first	might	side	while
both*	follow	most*	sleep	wish
break	food	mother*	small	winter
bring	found	move*	some*	work*
build*	funny	much	something*	world*
buy	game	must	soon	would*
carry*	gave	name	sound	worn
catch	goes	need	spell	write
caught	going	near	start	wrong
change	gone	never	stay	wrote
children	grade	next	still	year
city	great*	night	story	yesterday

*\*Words that do not fit into spelling patterns (Irregular 'Heart' Words)*

**Note:** As stated in the TEKS, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are required to identify and read at least 300 high-frequency words. This 175 high frequency word list, along with the 125 words on the Kinder and 1<sup>st</sup> grade lists, make up the list of 300 high frequency words.



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**Third Grade High Frequency Words**

add	example	left	state
across	except	list	sudden
anyone*	exciting	mind*	song
asked	fact	mile	taught
began	fair	miss	terrible
being	family	money*	their*
below	finally	morning	they're*
best	fire	mountains	thought*
body	friends*	myself	threw
care	general	often*	through*
caught	grant	person	trouble
check	grade	plan	united
class	group*	possible	upon
clean	hard	prettier	vacation
clothes	heard*	probably	view
community	hidden	problem	wasn't*
couldn't*	high	question	wear
country*	hole	ready*	we're
decided	hopeless	real	whether
discover	idea	recycle	whole
does*	important	responsibilities	winner
either*	independent	river	without
especially	journal	seem	wouldn't*
everybody*	keep	shouldn't*	you're
everything*	laughed	sometimes*	young*

*\*Words that do not fit into spelling patterns (Irregular 'Heart' Words)*



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**Fourth Grade High Frequency Words**

against*	getting	mean	stand
area	ground	measure	stars
black	half*	minutes	step
beautiful*	happened	music	strong
brought*	having*	north	table
certain	heart*	notice	teacher
cold*	high	nothing	throw
color	himself	numeral	told*
complete	hold*	passed	toward*
contain	horse	pattern	town
correct	hour*	piece*	travel
course*	however	products	true*
covered	hundred	pulled	trying
cried	hurt	quickly	turned
doing*	inches	reached	usually
draw	instead*	remember	unit
dream	kids	road	verb
easy	king	several	voice
English	listen	short	vowel
everyone*	lived	shown	wanted*
field*	lives	since	warm*
figure	looking	sing	waves
friendly*	low	slowly	wind
filled	making	south	wood
front*	mark	space	yourself*

*\*Words that do not fit into spelling patterns (Irregular 'Heart' Words)*