

Phonics screening check



Standards
& Testing
Agency

This document provides information for schools on the structure and content of the phonics screening check.

The document contains:

- a sample list of 40 words in the form of a mark sheet, which teachers will use to record children's responses (these sample words will not be used in the actual screening check); and
- a set of practice words that can be used to familiarise children with the way in which words will be presented in the screening check.

Academic research has found that the best way of teaching early reading is to teach systematic phonics. This is the most appropriate way of preparing children for the screening check.

Structure of the screening check

The screening check contains 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words.

Section 1

Page 1	Four pseudo-words
Page 2	Four pseudo-words
Page 3	Four pseudo-words
Page 4	Four real words
Page 5	Four real words

Section 2

Page 6	Four pseudo-words
Page 7	Four pseudo-words
Page 8	Four real words
Page 9	Four real words
Page 10	Four real words

All pseudo-words in the screening check are accompanied by a picture of an imaginary creature to provide a context for the child (naming the type of imaginary creature) to ensure that they are not trying to match the pseudo-word to a word in their vocabulary.

Content of the screening check

Section 1

The words in section 1 will have a variety of simple word structures (for example CVC, VCC, CCVC and CVCC) using single letters (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q(u), r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z), some consonant digraphs (ch, ck, ff, ll, ng, sh, ss, th, zz) and frequent and consistent vowel digraphs (ar, ee, oi, oo, or).

Section 2

The words in section 2 will have a variety of more complex word structures (for example CCVCC, CCCVC, CCCVCC and two syllable words) with some additional consonant digraphs (ph, wh), some less frequent and consistent vowel digraphs, including split digraphs (a-e, ai, au, aw, ay, ea, e-e, er, ew, i-e, ie, ir, oa, o-e, ou, ow, oy, ue, u-e, ur) and trigraphs (air, igh).

Administration of the screening check

Teachers must administer the screening check one-on-one with each child and record whether their response to each word is correct or incorrect.

Contact details

For more information about the phonics screening check, please contact the National Curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 or email assessments@education.gov.uk.

Screening check: Answer sheet

First name	
Last name	

Screening check responses: Please tick the appropriate box for each word. The use of the comment box is optional.

Section 1			
Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment
tox			
bim			
vap			
ulf			
geck			
chom			
tord			
thazz			
blan			
steck			
hild			
quemp			
shin			
gang			
week			
chill			
grit			
start			
best			
hooks			

Section 2			
Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment
voo			
jound			
terg			
fape			
snemp			
blurst			
spron			
stroft			
day			
slide			
newt			
phone			
blank			
trains			
strap			
scribe			
rusty			
finger			
dentist			
starling			

Total correct	
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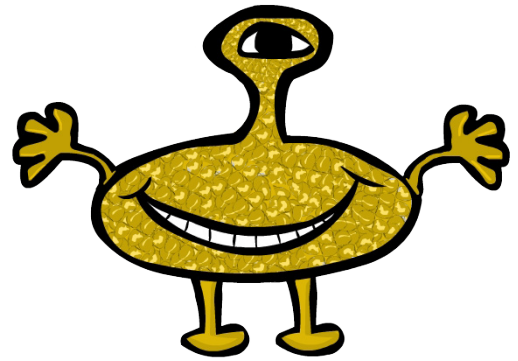
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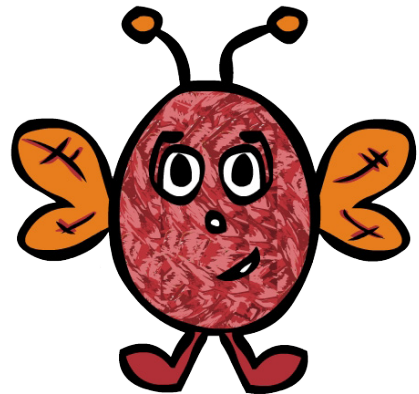
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