

## Dolch Words

Confidence and reading ability improve when children know Dolch sight words. Many of these words are in almost anything they read. Readers will have more experiences of success if they know these words. Dolch words are service words that are necessary for understanding sentences.

Edward W. Dolch developed lists of the 220 most frequently used words in children's books. From 50-75% of the text consisted of the words he put on his lists that became known as the Dolch words lists. A reader who knows the Dolch words will recognize the majority of the words in a typical selection. In *Albert, the Apple Eating Appaloosa*, and the three *Funny Dolch Sight Words* books, 95-100% of the words in the stories are Dolch sight words.

Dolch also developed a list of 95 commonly used nouns.

Dolch sight words should be recognized on sight (instantly) for reading to progress smoothly.

Many of these words cannot be sounded out by decoding rules. Many of them can't be represented by pictures, for example: *if, do, am, for, as, so, be*. They are *service* words that give meaning and direction (e.g., *here, there, now, then, on, at, in, over, today*).

***Before children finish first grade***, they should be able to read all of the Dolch sight words and the commonly used nouns.

The lists represent frequency of use in books on different grade levels. For example, *if* is on the third grade list. This means that E. W. Dolch found this word frequently in third grade books. He put words on the third grade list that did not appear *often* in pre-primer through second grade books. The nouns are not listed by grade level.

# OF DOLCH WORDS RECOGNIZED	ESTIMATED READING LEVEL
0 - 75	Pre-primer
76 - 120	Primer
121 - 170	1 <sup>st</sup> Year
171 - 210	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year
Above 210	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year +

Pre-primer 40 words	Primer 52 words	First Grade 41 words	Second Grade 46 words	Third Grade 41 words	Nouns 95 words	
a and away big blue can come down find for funny go help here I in is it jump little look make me my not one play red run said see the three to two up we where yellow you	all am are at ate be black brown but came did do eat four get good have he into like must new no now on our out please pretty ran ride saw say she so soon that there they this too under want was well went what white who will with yes	after again an any as ask by could every fly from give giving had has her him his how just know let live may of old once open over put round some stop take thank them then think walk were when	always around because been before best both buy call cold does don't fast first five found gave goes green its made many off or pull read right sing sit sleep tell their these those upon us use very wash which why wish work would write your	about better bring carry clean cut done draw drink eight fall far full got grow hold hot hurt if keep kind laugh light long much myself never only own pick seven shall show six small start ten today together try warm	apple baby back ball bear bed bell bird birthday boat box boy bread brother cake car cat chair chicken children Christmas coat corn cow day dog doll door duck egg eye farm farmer father feet fire fish floor flower game garden girl good-by grass ground hand head hill home horse house	kitty leg letter man men milk money morning mother name nest night paper party picture pig rabbit rain ring robin Santa Claus school seed sheep shoe sister snow song squirrel stick street sun table thing time top toy tree watch water way wind window wood