

Reading and writing common exception words and the days of the week

This week we would like you to work with your child to help them to **read** and **write** the Year 1 common exception words (words that do not follow the common phonetic spelling rules) and the days of the week.

We have already done lots of work on this at school, however lots of children still find it tricky to apply them when writing independently.

the	is	no	one
a	his	go	once
do	has	so	ask
to	I	by	friend
today	you	my	school
of	your	here	put
said	they	there	push
says	be	where	pull
are	he	love	full
were	me	come	house
was	she	some	our
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	

1. Recognise and read the words

The first step is being able to recognise and read the words. In order to support your child with this you could try using the above words in the games explained below.

Target practise

Write some of the above words onto pieces of paper and hang them on the washing line or stick them to a wall or fence. Then use a ball, water gun, water balloons etc to fire at each word. Ask your child to read to you the word that they hit. If they can read it they get a point. See if they can increase the number of points that they get each time that they play. Can they beat you or a sibling? The next time that you play, take out the words that your child can already read and add new words, until your child can read all of them confidently. Have fun!

Quick reactions

Write some of the above words on strips of paper and stick them to a wall or arrange them on the floor. Then get something to time with E.g. stopwatch, phone. In this game you will give your

child 30 seconds or a minute and then you will shout out each word. Your child needs to hit each word that you say as fast as they can, before you say the next word. Each time your child correctly reads the word, give them a tick or a tally line, so that you can count them after each game. How many words can they read in 30 seconds or a minute?

Now it's your turn. Let your child be in charge of the timer and calling out the words and see if you can beat them. Can they beat you or themselves on their second go?

The next time that you play, take out the words that your child can already read, and add new words until your child can read all of them confidently.

Once your child is really confident use all of the words. Set the timer running and see how long it takes them to read all of the words. See if they can do it quicker each time.

2. Writing the words

Once your child can read the above words they can practise writing them. Try playing the games below to help them learn to spell them correctly.

Find and write the word race

This game will need at least 2 players, so you and your child can both play, or an older sibling may want to join in too. Write the above words onto strips of paper and share them between 2 pots (or a pot for each player). You could maybe start with 5 words in each pot and build this up. Place the pots at one end of the room / garden and use something at the other end of the room / garden as a start line. The aim of the game is for each player to run to the other end of the room, choose a word from the pot, shout out the word and then write it 5 times before running back to the start line. They could write the word on paper, a whiteboard, a chalkboard etc as long as they write them and spell them correctly. The first player to have read and written all their words and return to the start line is the winner.

Rapid write

Say one of the above words. How many times can your child write it in 15 seconds? Can they beat their score with the next word? Address any spelling errors and try to think of ways to help your child remember how to spell that word correctly. Repeat with all of the above words, until your child can spell them all correctly.

Build a sentence

Pick one of the above words from a pot. Take it in turns to think of sentences which include the word. Practise holding the sentence, until you can remember it and then take it in turns to record the sentence. This will give your child the opportunity to apply and practise these spellings. Read the sentences back and correct them together to ensure that they make sense, that the new words are spelled correctly and that the sentence starts with a capital letter and finishes with a full stop.