

Where-to-Start Word Test

Description Students read a leveled word list.

- You Need**
- ▶ Where-to-Start Chart to determine the level at which to start Benchmark assessment.
 - ▶ Where-to-Start Word List
 - ▶ Where-to-Start Word Test–Individual Record form

Why Use It If you do not have or are not confident about reading performance information about a student, this quick assessment will give you a broad notion of the level at which to begin Benchmark Assessment.

- How to Use It**
- ▶ Ask the student to read the list for the level below his/her grade level. (e.g., third graders should begin with **List 2**, fourth graders with **List 3**, fifth graders with **List 4**, etc.)
 - ▶ *"I want you to read some words. When you come to a hard word, try it. If you cannot read it, go on to the next word. I'll be making notes while you read. Start here."*
 - ▶ Place a card under the first word in the appropriate word list. Have the student move the card down the list as he reads. If the student spends too much time on a word (more than 5 seconds), say *"Read the next one."*
 - ▶ As the student reads, score and record word reading on a copy of the list:
 1. Check each word read accurately, including correct guesses, self-corrected readings, and accepted local variations in pronunciation.
 2. Record incorrect attempts in the space to the right of each word. If the word is not attempted, leave the space blank.
 3. Score as errors words that the student
 - cannot read
 - substitutes with another word or other sounds
 - says several different ways and is uncertain of the correct pronunciation
 - reads incompletely (*bush* instead of *bushel*) or adds sounds to (*performs* instead of *perform*)
 4. Do not prompt, coach, or ask the student to repeat a word (unless you could not hear it).
 5. Record the number of words read accurately at the bottom of each list.

If the child reads 19 to 20 words on a list correctly, then go to the next list. If a child reads less than 18 words correctly, then stop and begin the text reading at the appropriate level shown on the chart below.

Where to Start Chart

Number Correct	List 2	List 3	List 4	List 5	List 6	List 7	List 8
0–5	E	I	M	P	R	T	U
6–10	F	J	M	P	R	T	V
11–15	G	K	N	Q	S	U	V
16–20	H	L	O	Q	S	U	V

Where-to-Start Word Test—Individual Record

Name _____ Date _____

List 2		List 3		List 4		List 5	
want		plate		silence		speechless	
friend		year		serious		slumber	
puppy		noise		nature		courage	
basket		under		station		region	
could		twisted		graceful		appearance	
dark		giant		heavy		gracious	
down		knives		against		honorable	
road		what		excuse		ambition	
plant		around		traffic		expression	
away		because		reward		protective	
morning		forest		plastic		cushion	
three		once		ocean		population	
cool		scramble		perform		needle	
drop		again		delicious		marriage	
grass		careful		pebble		obedient	
when		breakfast		understood		baggage	
first		batter		destiny		justice	
train		suddenly		future		lately	
queen		badge		anger		bushel	
scream		village		honey		lunar	
	/20		/20		/20		/20

Where-to-Start Word Test—Individual Record

Name _____ Date _____

List 6		List 7		List 8	
liquid		continuously		boutique	
reduction		environmental		meddle	
prosperity		exhausted		supplement	
accustom		pensive		whimsical	
medicine		society		grotesque	
nourishment		approximate		nonchalant	
combination		customary		contemptuous	
wreckage		reminiscence		antique	
rebellion		malicious		miniature	
responsible		intricate		simultaneous	
profitable		contemporary		exuberant	
patient		acknowledge		permissive	
tremendous		malignant		inducement	
patriotic		cubic		exhibition	
compliments		attentively		articulate	
spectacular		standardize		subtle	
abundant		architecture		granular	
hostility		industrious		succumb	
imaginary		counterfeit		poignant	
yearning		recession		rambunctious	
	/20		/20		/20

Word List 2

want

morning

friend

three

puppy

cool

basket

drop

could

grass

dark

when

down

first

road

train

plant

queen

away

scream

Word List 3

plate

forest

year

once

noise

scramble

under

again

twisted

careful

giant

breakfast

knives

batter

what

suddenly

around

badge

because

village

Word List 4

silence

plastic

serious

ocean

nature

perform

station

delicious

graceful

pebble

heavy

understood

against

destiny

excuse

future

traffic

anger

reward

honey

Word List 5

speechless

cushion

slumber

population

courage

needle

region

marriage

appearance

obedient

gracious

baggage

honorable

justice

ambition

lately

expression

bushel

protective

lunar

Word List 6

liquid

profitable

reduction

patient

prosperity

tremendous

accustom

patriotic

medicine

compliments

nourishment

spectacular

combination

abundant

wreckage

hostility

rebellion

imaginary

responsible

yearning

Word List 7

continuously

contemporary

environmental

acknowledge

exhausted

malignant

pensive

cubic

society

attentively

approximate

standardize

customary

architecture

reminiscence

industrious

malicious

counterfeit

intricate

recession

Word List 8

boutique

exuberant

meddle

permissive

supplement

inducement

whimsical

exhibition

grotesque

articulate

nonchalant

subtle

contemptuous

granular

antique

succumb

miniature

poignant

simultaneous

rambunctious