

**LISTEN  
WRITE AND READ®**

*A Path to Literacy*

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## Introduction

There is no single road to literacy. Each student will follow a somewhat different path. Students will most likely require a variety of experiences and skills. A successful reading experience includes material that students find interesting, enjoyable, and easy.

The major task for the students is learning to read words that are already in their oral vocabularies. Learning to read words in lists is more efficient than learning to read individual words presented in context. Students learn words faster, remember them longer, and transfer them more readily to a new context when the words are in a list.

The medleys of sentences in this book exclusively use high-frequency sight words previously published as the Dolch Basic Sight Vocabulary. They are the most common words in printed English. All 220 high-frequency sight words are used in this book, arranged by grade level.

Starting with the Level 1 List of Sight Words, the teacher points to a word and reads it at a regular conversational rate. The teacher reads all of the words on the list one by one. There is no need for the teacher to sound out a word phonetically if the word is already in the student's vocabulary.

The basic task for the students is to associate the written word with the spoken word.

1. Look at the word as the teacher points to it.
2. Listen to the word while looking at it.
3. Repeat the word after the teacher reads it.
4. Rehearse the association between the written and spoken forms of the word so that it becomes automatic.

Once the students are able to read the words in the Level 1 List of Sight Words automatically, they are ready to begin reading the Level 1 Medley of Sentences

one by one. When students begin reading the Level 1 Medley of Sentences, they will recognize that the written language they are learning is similar in many ways to the oral language they speak.

Once the students can read the Level 1 Medley of Sentences fluently, the teacher and students continue, proceeding by grade level to the Level 2 List of Sight Words and Medley of Sentences, the Level 3 List of Sight Words and Medley of Sentences, the Level 4 List of Sight Words and Medley of Sentences, and the Level 5 List of Sight Words and Medley of Sentences.

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## Sight Words

**LISTEN, WRITE AND READ® A Path to Literacy** provides a simple method of using all 220 high-frequency sight words in 115 sentences organized by grade level. There are five separate levels of sentences. The Basic Sight Vocabulary was compiled by Edward W. Dolch, Ph.D. in 1955, and it is still recognized as valid.

### **What are sight words?**

Sight words consist of 220 of the most frequently used words in printed English, excluding nouns. From 50 to 75 percent of all words used in books, magazines and newspapers can be found in the list of sight words. They are pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and verbs.

### **Why learn sight words?**

By the time students begin to read, sight words are already part of their vocabularies. Some of the words cannot be sounded out phonetically. Many of the words are used to hold thoughts together. Learning to recognize these words instantly by sight is essential to developing reading fluency and comprehension.

### **How do students learn sight words?**

Many students learn the words by reading them repeatedly in context. However, students vary in their learning styles and teachers need a variety of teaching techniques to help them memorize these words.