

Readings for Fluency

(in decoding and encoding)

by Don McCabe

Practice Sentences

to help the beginning adult reader (from 6-96)
achieve ***automaticity***
in responding to common words
no matter whether they are

hand printed, ALL IN CAPITAL LETTERS, or written in *cursive*

The sentences may also be used for **SPELLING DICTATION**
using immediate student self-correction.

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Preface to

Readings for Fluency

Although “comprehension” is the ultimate goal of reading, there are a number of other goals that must be achieved first. Among these goals are learning to recognize and write the letters of the alphabet and correctly responding to the sounds that the patterns of these letters make.

In recent years, there has been such an emphasis placed upon the end result of reading instruction, that many students fail to achieve the skills necessary to become good readers. This book is our attempt to provide a certain segment of beginning readers with sufficient practice that will enable them to at least read fluently the more common words of our language.

And who are these readers who need this practice? They are those who have learned to respond almost solely to a specific sight picture of a word. For example, the pictograph *ball* does not look at all like **BALL**, *Ball* or *ball*. Students learning by the sight method of instruction may be able to quickly and easily read **ball** if the print in the book they are using looks like this. Their problem is that their computer brains have made visual pictographs (pictures) of whole words and respond to these pictures and not to the letter patterns that the words are made out of. So in order to respond quickly and accurately to common words, they must learn to quickly and automatically respond to the letter patterns these words are composed of, no matter what the individual shapes of the letters may happen to be.

If you don't believe us, give the following test to a person who cannot read a single word of English and who doesn't know the Roman alphabet.

Circle the word on the right that is the same word as the one on the left.					
ball	dall	boll	<i>bell</i>	<i>BALL</i>	<i>Batt</i>
FIT	fih	flt	<i>fit</i>	<i>EIT</i>	<i>fil</i>
RAT	Eat	rat	<i>ret</i>	<i>BAT</i>	<i>raf</i>
holder	dolder	bolder	<i>holder</i>	<i>HOLDER</i>	<i>kolder</i>
Pizza	Pigga	Pizzo	<i>Plezzo</i>	<i>PIGGA</i>	<i>Pizza</i>

What we try to do is to give simple sentences of below 3.0 level of difficulty written in many styles of print, manuscript and cursive, upper and lower case. It is designed for the read-along-with-me technique. The tutor can read the first sentence and the student the second (and sometimes third) sentence in each grouping.

Target
Word

Sentences Using Target Words

is	<u>What is</u> this all about?
is	This is about making reading smooth and easy.
's	<u>WHAT'S</u> THIS ALL ABOUT?
IS	THIS IS ABOUT MAKING READING SMOOTH AND EASY.
Is	Is she going to work today?
is	No, <u>she is</u> not going to work today.
's	No, <u>SHE'S</u> NOT GOING TO WORK TODAY.
isn't	Why isn't she going to work today?
is	<u>Today is</u> her day off.
's	<u>Today's</u> her day off.
is	<i>What is the matter with you?</i>
is	<i><u>Nothing is</u> the matter with me.</i>
's	<i>What's the matter with you?</i>
's	<i>Nothing's the matter with me.</i>
is	Is that your girl friend sitting over there?
is	Yes, that is my girl friend sitting over there.
's	Yes, that's my girl friend sitting over there.
IS	WHO IS THAT GOOD LOOKING YOUNG MAN SITTING WITH HER?
IS	THAT GOOD LOOKING YOUNG MAN IS HER BROTHER.
's	Who's that good looking young man sitting with her?
's	That good looking young man's her brother.
IS	WHAT IS THAT YOU JUST SAID?
IS	I JUST SAID, "THAT GOOD LOOKING YOUNG MAN IS HER BROTHER."
is	Who is that good looking young woman over there?
is	That good looking young woman is my sister.
Is	<i>Is that right?</i>
IS	<i>YES, THAT IS RIGHT!</i>
's	<i>Yes, that's right.</i>

Target

Word Sentences Using Target Words

dog	A man's best friend is his dog. A woman's best friend is her dog.
dogs	Why does it rain cats and dogs? Why not horses and cows?
DOG'S	WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT LEADING A DOG'S LIFE?
DOGGY	SOME PEOPLE CARRY A DOGGY BAG WITH THEM.
doggies	You know that they don't feed their leftovers to their doggies.
log	There's a frog on a log on the bottom of the sea.
LOGS	HOW MANY LOGS DOES IT TAKE TO BUILD A LOG CABIN?
LOGGED	IT TOOK ME AN HOUR BUT I FINALLY LOGGED ON TO AOL.
<i>logging</i>	<i>Logging on to America Online isn't very easy.</i>
<i>logging</i>	<i>A lumberjack should know all about logging.</i>
<i>fog</i>	<i>It's no fun driving in the fog.</i>
<i>fogs</i>	<i>I hate it when my windshield fogs up.</i>
fogged	My glasses fogged up when I came in out of the cold.
fogging	In the winter, my glasses keep fogging up.
CLOG	HAIR WILL CLOG UP A DRAIN.
CLOGS	BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU CLEAN OUT CLOGS.
clogged	You never know for sure what clogged up the drain.
clogging	My parents really loved to go square dancing and clogging.
JOG	DOES THAT JOG YOUR MEMORY A LITTLE BIT?
JOGS	MY BROTHER JOGS TWO MILES EVERY SINGLE DAY.
<i>jogged</i>	<i>Once I jogged two blocks. Then I quit.</i>
<i>jogging</i>	<i>Some people believe in jogging. I believe in walking.</i>
<i>hog</i>	<i>My brother is such a hog, we call him Porky.</i>
<i>hogs</i>	<i>He hogs all the good stuff. He's such a pig.</i>
HOGGED	HE HAS EVEN HOGGED THE BEST SPOT IN OUR FAMILY PICTURE.
HOGGING	I GUESS HOGGING THE BEST SPOT JUST COMES NATURAL TO PORKY.
smog	I hate smog just as much as I hate smoke and fog.
smoggy	I stay inside if it's smoggy outside.