

Core Knowledge Language Arts and the Dolch and Fry Words Lists

In the past, some schools have organized literacy instruction around sight words, using the Dolch and Fry sight word lists as a principle for organizing and sequencing instruction. The question arises: To what extent is it possible to use the Dolch and Fry Word lists and also teach CKLA? The answer is that by teaching CKLA, you will be teaching all the words on the Dolch and Fry lists, but the path and method towards learning will be slightly different for children in CKLA. This is because CKLA begins with teaching regular spelling patterns. Many words on the Dolch and Fry lists can be decoded by learning their spelling pattern and this is how CKLA will approach these words. Other words on the Dolch and Fry lists are irregular, and CKLA will teach these as tricky words.

It is not recommended that you try to teach the sequence of instruction using Dolch and Fry lists while implementing CKLA, as this will be confusing to children. What is important is not the *sequence* in which you teach the high frequency words on the Dolch and Fry lists, but that children are able to learn these words and are taught to read these words across the early grades. In that, CKLA definitely addresses that you are teaching these words to children and that children will know all these words by the end of second grade.

The charts below show each of the words from the Dolch list that children will learn through each unit of kindergarten and first grade, followed by the words from the Fry list that children will learn through each unit of kindergarten and first grade. By the end of second grade, children will have learned/be able to decode all words on the Dolch and Fry lists.

Dolch List

Kindergarten

CKLA Unit	Dolch Words decodable at the end of the unit	Dolch Words taught as Tricky Words
Unit 1	--	--
Unit 2	--	--
Unit 3	am, at, did, got, it	--
Unit 4	an, and, can, get, had, him, hot, if, its, in, on, not, sit, ten	--
Unit 5	ask, big, but, cut, let, ran, red, run, six, us, up, yes	--
Unit 6	as, best, fast, has, help, his, is, jump, just, must, stop, went	--
Unit 7	bring, long, much, sing, that, them, then, this, wish, with	--
Unit 8	black, off, pick, shall, tell, well, will	a, all, from, of, one, the, was
Unit 9	--	are, here, I, once, no, said, so, there, to, were, what, when, where, which, why
Unit 10	ate, came, five, gave, green, keep, like, make, made, ride, see, sleep, take, those, three, use	be, by, he, me, my, she, their, they, we, you, your

By the end of kindergarten, children can read 109 out of the 220 Dolch Words (either because they are decodable or have been taught as Tricky Words).

Grade 1

CKLA Unit	Dolch Words decodable by the end of the unit	Dolch Words taught as Tricky Words
Unit 1	am, an, and, ask, ask, at, ate, best, big, black, bring, but, came, can, cut, did, fast, five, gave, get, got, green, had, has, help, here, him, his, hot, if, in, is, it, its, jump, just, let, long, much, must, off, on, not, pick, ran, red, run, shall, sing, sit, six, stop, tell, ten, that, them, then, this, up, us, went, will, well, wish, with, yes	a, I, no, so, of, all, some, from, are, were, have, one, once, to, do, who, the, said, was, when, where, what, which, here, there
Unit 2	ate, came, five, gave, green, keep, like, make, made, ride, see, sleep, take, those, three, use	be, by, he, me, my, she, their, they, we, you, your
Unit 3	draw, found, good, look, our, out, round, saw, soon, too	because, could, down, should, would
Unit 4	after, better, far, for, her, into, myself, never, or, seven, start, under, upon	today
Unit 5	write	how
Unit 6	drink, thank, think, white	--
Unit 7	goes, may, play, say	--

Fry List

Kindergarten

CKLA Unit	Fry Words decodable by the end of the unit	Fry Words taught as Tricky Words
Unit 1	--	--
Unit 2	--	--
Unit 3	at, did, got, it	--
Unit 4	an, and, can, end, get, had, him, if, in, it's, man, men, not, on, set	--
Unit 5	ask, big, but, cut, let, run, up	--
Unit 6	as, has, his, is, hand, just, land, last, left, list, must, next, plant, stop, went, help	--
Unit 7	much, song, long, such, than, that, them, then, thing, this, with	--
Unit 8	add, back, miss, off, spell, still, tell, well, will	the, a, of, all, one, from, was
Unit 9	--	are, here, I, no, once, there, said, so, to, were, what, when, where, which, why, word
Unit 10	came, close, feet, home, keep, life, live (/ie/), like, line, made, make, mile, name, need, same, see, seem, side, state, take, those, three, time, tree, use	be, by, he, me, my, she, their, they, we, you, your

Grade 1

CKLA Unit	Fry Words decodable by the end of the unit	Fry Words taught as Tricky Words
Unit 1	add, an, and, as ask, at, back, big, but, can, cut, did, end, get, got, had, hand, has, help, him, his, if, in, is, it, it's, just, land, last, left, let, list, long, man, men, miss, much, must, next, not, off, on, plant, run, set, song, spell, still, stop, tell, than, that, them, then, thing, this, up, well, went, will, with	a, all, are, do, from, have, here, I, no, of, one, once, there, said, so, some, the, to, two, was, what, when, where, which, who, why, word
Unit 2	came, close, feet, home, keep, life, live (/ie/), like, line, made, make, mile, name, need, same, see, seem, side, state, take, those, three, time, tree, use	be, by, he, me, my, she, their, they, we, you, your
Unit 3	book, food, found, good, look, oil, our, out, point, saw, soon, sound, took, took	could, down, should, would, because

Unit 4	after, for, far, form, hard, her, into, letter, never, number, or, part, something, sometimes, start, under, something, sometimes, until, children, car, river, without	yesterday , today
Unit 5	write, large, page	how
Unit 6	white, place, sentence, house, while, face	--
Unit 7	play, say, way, day, air	--