Nonsense Word Test

Testing nonsense word accuracy and fluency will help you figure out if the use of the Syllables Spell Success\(^1\) program followed by nonsense word training is likely to improve your reading speed and accuracy.

An adult or a child age 12 or older should be reading the nonsense words at least 100 Words Per Minute (WPM) with 100% accuracy.

An 11 year old should be reading the nonsense words at least 95 WPM with 100% accuracy.

A 10 year old should be reading nonsense words at least 90 WPM with 100% accuracy.

A 9 year old should be reading the nonsense words at least 80 WPM with 95% accuracy.

A 8 year old should be reading the nonsense words at least 70 WPM with 90% accuracy.

A 7 year old should read them at least 60 WPM with 90% accuracy.

A 6 year old should read them at least 40 WPM with 85% accuracy.

Anyone who is reading below these recommendations for their age should benefit from the syllables program and nonsense word training.

This test uses a group of 25 words. Time the rate at which the student reads the words and keep track of the number of words missed. The 25 words per passage makes calculating accuracy easy, just multiply the number correct by 4, for example, 20 correct is 80% and 24 correct is 96% accuracy.

Words per Minute (WPM)

\[
\text{Words per Minute (WPM)} = \frac{\text{words read} \times 60}{\text{speed in seconds}}
\]

Since each nonsense word group is 25 words:

\[
\text{WPM} = \frac{1500}{\text{Speed in Seconds}}
\]

\(^1\) 40L’s Syllables Spell Success program is available at:
http://www.thephonicspage.org/On%20Reading/syllablesspellsu.html
You can also use the following chart to figure out the WPM rate, it uses the formula above and has common times and their associated WPM score, based on 25 words read and the formula for calculating WPM. You must use time in seconds for the formula and the table. For example, 1 one minute 20 seconds = 60 seconds + 20 seconds = 80 seconds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>WPM</th>
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<th>WPM</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>WPM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45 - 46</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>48 - 49</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>51 - 52</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>53 - 54</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>39 - 40</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>55 - 56</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>83</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>57 - 58</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>59 - 61</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>62 - 63</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>64 - 66</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Words to use for nonsense word testing are on the next page. Use a single group of words for a test. There are 3 versions of the test to use for before and after teaching. For more words for additional testing, use 40L’s extra words nonsense document², it has 20 pages of the same type of nonsense words in groups of 25.

² 40L’s extra nonsense words, available on 40L’s Syllables Spell Success page, direct link to pdf: [http://www.thephonicspage.org/On%20Reading/Resources/ExtraNonsenseWords.pdf](http://www.thephonicspage.org/On%20Reading/Resources/ExtraNonsenseWords.pdf)

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### Version A

cloath  phred  crigh  dreep  vog  
clude  crake  phrike  blette  ept  
yeem  freep  blisk  gleep  yuff  
thrune  slen  theel  phroast  crice  
geb  jash  brettie  plie  blar

### Version B

zupt  thund  vuff  threep  brool  
clun  opt  sict  phlype  frist  
gresk  therm  stee  glute  swoak  
puct  jeft  crell  jat  thrane  
teft  yeem  zusk  shrusp  praw

### Version C

glail  swoke  froan  therm  clor  
pran  stract  bloist  frain  mizzle  
druke  sprin  drept  phlape  gleep  
zerm  yint  troat  fack  yute  
onk  fash  unk  sprid  ruct