

# ROUTINES FOR TEACHING NEW WORDS

## Use for Dolch Word List and Spelling Patterns

Orthographic Mapping is a process. It is how words, including what we have traditionally called “Sight Words,” are stored in our long-term memory. It requires letter-sound knowledge, phonemic awareness, and phonological long-term memory. This method is supported by brain research and is an alternative to the more traditional way of teaching words through flashcards and memorization. For more information and understanding, visit:

VIDEO→ [What is Orthographic Mapping? \(Part 1\)](#)

VIDEO→ [What is Orthographic Mapping? \(Part Two\)](#)



See below for an orthographic mapping routine, and a sample of how it would sound when teaching the word “said”. This routine can be used with both regularly and irregularly spelled words.

| THE ROUTINE  | EXAMPLE: TEACHING “SAID”<br><i>*When you see slashes next to a letter that means you are saying the <u>sound</u> for that letter, not the letter name.</i> |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Say the word.</li><li>Student repeats the word. T: “What’s the word?”</li><li>T: “Say all the sounds in ____.” (Say sounds, making sure there is a break between individual sounds)</li><li>Count the sounds you hear. T: “How many sounds are in the word ____?”</li><li>Say the sounds as you touch one box for each sound. (Elkonin/Sound Boxes)<br/><table><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></li><li>T: “What is the first sound in ____?”</li><li>Write the letter/s that represent the first sound.</li><li>Repeat steps six and seven for the rest of the sounds in the word.</li><li>T: “This word is_____”</li><li>Ask the student to touch the letter/s that represents each sound.</li><li>When a word is irregular, teach the part that is irregular. Use a <u>heart symbol</u> over that part of the word to help students remember it as irregular and different.<br/><i><b>*Remember, the majority of words can still be learned with sounds even though they may have an irregular part. Use the <u>heart</u> to show the part they need to remember by heart. Rely on sounds for the rest of the word.</b></i></li></ol> |  |  |  |  |  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>The word is “<b>said</b>”.</li><li>“Say ‘<b>said</b>’”. (Student repeats “said”).</li><li>“Say all the sounds in the word ‘said’”.<br/>“/s/ /e/ /d/”</li><li>“Count the sounds in ‘<b>said</b>’. How many sounds do you hear?” (Student should say “3”).</li><li>“Say the sounds again as you touch one box for each sound.” (Use Elkonin/Sound Boxes)<br/><table><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></li><li>“What is the first sound in ‘<b>said</b>’?” (Student should respond “/s/”).</li><li>Write the letter that represents the first sound. Student should write ‘s’.</li><li>What is the middle sound in the word ‘<b>said</b>’?” (Student should reply “/e/”).</li><li>“What is the letter that makes the /e/ sound?” (Student will probably reply “e”, and here is where the <b>HEART</b> comes into play. Because ‘<b>said</b>’ has an irregular part, the adult should say to the student: “<b>You’re right. ‘E’ usually does make the /e/ sound, but in the word ‘said’, the /e/ sound is actually spelled ‘ai’. Let’s write that ‘ai’ together in the middle of the word, and we’ll put a heart over it so we know we will need to memorize just this part of the word by heart.</b></li><li>“What is the last sound in the word ‘<b>said</b>’?” (Student should reply “d”).</li><li>“Write the letter that makes the /d/ sound.” (Student should write “d”).</li></ol> |  |  |  |  |  |
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## ***RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT WORD LEARNING***

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| Heart Word Magic - Videos that walk through the above routine for many words with irregular parts. *Really Great Reading” has many other free resources too!   | <a href="https://www.reallygreatreading.com/heart-word-magic">https://www.reallygreatreading.com/heart-word-magic</a>   |
| Florida Center for Reading Research - this link takes you to student center activities that can be printed to create practice games for many different grade levels and skill areas. Choose your level and skill area (reach out to your child’s teacher for a suggestion).  | <a href="https://fcrr.org/resources/resources_sca.html">https://fcrr.org/resources/resources_sca.html</a>   |
| Sightwords.com - also has tons of practice activities and games that help children read and learn words. Use in conjunction with the routine above!  | <a href="http://www.sightwords.com">www.sightwords.com</a>  |
| Keep Kids Reading - offers printable practice for reading and spelling as well as decodable books for students learning foundational phonics skills.   | <a href="http://www.keepkidsreading.net/cvc-words/cvc-worksheets/">http://www.keepkidsreading.net/cvc-words/cvc-worksheets/</a>   |
| Heggerty Phonemic Awareness - being able to segment words into individual sounds is extremely important to be able to use the word learning routine above. The Heggerty resources are something kindergarten and some first grade CV students are using daily in their classrooms, and offer practice in being able to hear individual sounds in words to create a strong base for later spelling and reading. | <a href="https://www.heggerty.org/phonemic-awareness-for-parents">https://www.heggerty.org/phonemic-awareness-for-parents</a>   |
| Reading Rockets: More About Elkonin Boxes - this site shows Elkonin (sound) boxes in use with video tutorials!   | <a href="https://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/elkonin_boxes">https://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/elkonin_boxes</a>   |
| Printable Elkonin Boxes with Pictures - this mom is offering free printables of pictures with blank Elkonin boxes and shows you how you can use them to practice segmenting words. You could also use in the routine above if you take the next step after segmenting with your finger pointing to one box at a time to spelling with the letters that correspond.   | <a href="https://www.themeasuredmom.com/free-elkonin-boxes/">https://www.themeasuredmom.com/free-elkonin-boxes/</a>   |
| More on Elkonin Box Strategy here →  | <a href="https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/for-educators/teaching-strategies/evidence-based-literacy-strategy-elkonin-sound-boxes">https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/for-educators/teaching-strategies/evidence-based-literacy-strategy-elkonin-sound-boxes</a> |