BL Blend Word List

Pop the lips for /b/, then move the tongue tip straight up behind the teeth for /l/ without letting a vowel sneak in between.



SOUND
/bl/

TYPICAL AGE
By age 5

TYPE
Voiced Stop + liquid cluster

PRACTICE TIP

If the child says "buh-lue," they are inserting a vowel. Practice holding the /l/ first, then adding the /b/ in front: l-l-l-lue, blue.

BL does not occur often in the middle or at the end of English words, so this page practices it at the beginning.

Initial Position (20 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


blue

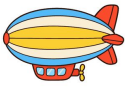

black


block


blow


bloom


blouse


blimp


blocks

These and 6 more pictured words are in the BL Blend picture cards.

1 Syllable

14 words

blue	blow	blast	blade	blank
black	blond	blink	bless	blocks
block	bloom	blouse	blimp	

2 Syllables

4 words

blanket	blender	blizzard	blossom

3 Syllables

2 words

blueberry	blackberry

High-frequency initial words

Everyday words rather than picture-card words - which is why most lists leave them out. A child already says these hundreds of times a day, so they carry more carryover value than any noun above. Target them in conversation, not in drill.

blows, blowing

Generalization

Word lists get a sound into a child's mouth. Generalization is what gets it into their life. These are activities where the target words come up on their own, so nobody has to be talked into practicing.

Play-based ideas for young children

Block tower

Build and knock down block towers on a blanket.

Words that come up: block, blue, blanket, build, blast, blow, black, blocks, big, more, up, down, again, crash

Blowing games

Blow bubbles, blow out candles, blow a tissue across a table.

Words that come up: blow, blew, bubbles, blue, black, blast, blanket, more, big, again, up, out, puff, wow

Blue hunt

Find every blue thing in the house.

Words that come up: blue, black, block, blanket, blob, blur, bloom, found, look, more, this, that, here, there

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Blue-sky thinking

Invent an impossible invention and explain it.

Blame game

Tell a story where something goes wrong and nobody will take the blame.