CL Blend Word List

Back of the tongue up for /k/, release, and let the tongue tip jump forward to the ridge for /l/. One smooth motion.



SOUND	TYPICAL AGE	TYPE
/kl/	By age 5	Voiceless Stop + liquid cluster

PRACTICE TIP

Watch for cluster reduction ("cap" for "clap"). Exaggerate a long /l/ at first: k-lllap.

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

Initial Position (22 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


clock


clap


clean


climb


cloud


clown


clay


clip

These and 8 more pictured words are in the CL Blend picture cards.

1 Syllable

18 words

clock	close	clay	club	claw
clap	cloud	clip	clue	cloth
clean	clown	cliff	clamp	
climb	class	clothes	clam	

2 Syllables

4 words

clover	closet	classroom	clever

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.

clean, closed, closes, cleaning, closing, climb, cleaned, climbing, climbed, clapping, cleans, claps, climbs, clapped

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

Clapping games

Clap patterns and have them copy. Clap fast, clap slow, clap loud.

Words that come up: clap, clapping, clock, close, climb, clean, clay, again, more, fast, slow, loud, my turn, stop

Clay play

Roll, squash and cut clay or play dough.

Words that come up: clay, close, clean, clump, clap, climb, more, squash, roll, again, big, small, my turn, done

Cleaning up

Race to clean up toys. Close every box and drawer.

Words that come up: clean, close, clear, clap, clock, clutter, done, more, help, again, all, put away, in, shut

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Clue game

Give three clues to a mystery object. "Clue" and "close" every round.

Class rules

Invent the rules for a perfect classroom.