F Sound Word List

Tuck the bottom lip lightly under the top front teeth and blow a steady stream of air. Nothing buzzes - it is all air.



SOUND
/f/

TYPICAL AGE
By age 3-4

TYPE
Voiceless Labiodental fricative

PRACTICE TIP

Kids often substitute /p/ ("pish" for "fish"). Show them in a mirror that /f/ keeps the lips apart and the air flowing, while /p/ snaps shut.

Initial Position (85 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


fish


fan


four


foot


fork


food


farm


face

These and 37 more pictured words are in the F Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

48 words

fish	fix	fear	fill	fool
fan	fox	feast	film	fort
four	five	feed	fin	foul
foot	fudge	feel	find	found
fork	fade	feet	fine	full
food	fair	felt	fir	fun
farm	fake	fern	first	fur
face	far	field	fit	phone
fence	fast	fig	fold	
fall	fawn	file	fond	

2 Syllables

29 words

fire	farmer	father	filter	forty
finger	feather	faucet	final	forward
funny	fable	ferry	finish	fossil
football	fabric	fiddle	follow	fuzzy
fountain	fairy	fifteen	forget	fancy
forest	falcon	fifty	forklift	

3 Syllables

7 words

family	factory	favorite	forever
furniture	fantastic	festival	

4 Syllables

1 word

February

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.

for, find, feel, family, five, four, full, funny, finally, follow, finish, finished, forgot, feels, fit, following, finding, followed, finds, fixed, fits, fixing, finishing, follows, forgets, finishes, fixes

Medial Position (77 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.


coffee


muffin


sofa


waffle


dolphin


breakfast


traffic


gopher

These and 27 more pictured words are in the F Sound picture cards.

2 Syllables

57 words

coffee	offer	handful	safety	halfway
muffin	tofu	helpful	seafood	lifeguard
sofa	wafer	nephew	shuffle	rooftop
waffle	refill	office	snowflake	softball
dolphin	comfort	often	soften	sunfish
before	afraid	perfect	softly	playful
breakfast	after	perfume	stuffing	golfer
traffic	confuse	pitchfork	taffy	barefoot
gopher	defend	platform	trophy	goldfish
laughing	defrost	prefer	comfy	
awful	fifty	roofing	driftwood	
careful	grapefruit	ruffle	giftwrap	

3 Syllables

19 words

elephant	sunflower	difference	referee	leftover
telephone	beautiful	different	uniform	sofa bed
buffalo	campfire	difficult	coffee pot	waffle cone
alphabet	confetti	firefly	afternoon	

4 Syllables

1 word

cauliflower

High-frequency medial 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.

before, after, beautiful, different, afraid, laughing, careful, wonderful, afternoon, often, awful

Final Position (50 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.


leaf


roof


half


laugh


wolf


scarf


chef


shelf

These and 15 more pictured words are in the F Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

36 words

leaf	beef	calf	huff	surf
roof	golf	elf	if	turf
half	hoof	tough	off	whiff
laugh	cliff	brief	puff	wife
wolf	safe	chief	reef	
scarf	stuff	cuff	rough	
chef	life	fluff	sniff	
shelf	loaf	gruff	stiff	

2 Syllables

10 words

giraffe	meatloaf	sheriff	himself	itself
myself	enough	bookshelf	herself	mischief

3 Syllables

4 words

handkerchief	paragraph	photograph	autograph

High-frequency final 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.

if, enough, yourself, myself, himself, laugh, herself, itself

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

Feed the fish

A paper-plate fish with a mouth cut out, or a toy fish tank. Feed it, count the food, make it swim away.

Words that come up: fish, feed, food, fin, four, five, more, full, fast, swim, splash, funny, off, in

Farm animals

Line up farm animals and make their sounds. Put them in a fence, feed them, take them out again.

Words that come up: farm, fence, feed, four, fur, food, fall, fly, off, cow, funny, find, first, full

Flashlight hunt

Turn the lights off and find hidden objects with a flashlight. Let them hold the light and call out what they find.

Words that come up: find, found, flashlight, off, on, far, fast, look, funny, first, face, foot, under, fun

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Favorite five

Name your top five in any category and defend the order. "Favorite," "first," "four," "five" and "fun" are all in play.

Fact or fiction

Make a claim; the other person guesses whether it is a fact or fiction. Both key words are targets.

Finish the story

Take turns adding a sentence to a story. "First," "finally" and "found" show up in nearly every turn.