FL Blend Word List

Hold the /f/ with the lip under the teeth, then lift the tongue tip to the ridge for /l/ while the voice switches on.



SOUND
/fl/

TYPICAL AGE
By age 5

TYPE
Voiceless Fricative + liquid cluster

PRACTICE TIP

FL is a good early blend because you can stretch the /f/ as long as you need: ffff-lag.

FL 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.


flag


fly


flat


float


flute


flame


flock


floss

These and 5 more pictured words are in the FL Blend picture cards.

1 Syllable

14 words

flag	flat	flute	flock	floss
fly	float	flash	flood	flakes
floor	flip	flame	fleece	

2 Syllables

7 words

flower	flashlight	flip-flop	flannel
fluffy	flavor	flour	

3 Syllables

1 word

flamingo

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.

flying, flew

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

Flower picking

Pick real or paper flowers and arrange them in a vase.

Words that come up: flower, flat, float, fly, flop, more, please, pretty, smell, again, pick, put, look, done

Flashlight games

Make shadows and find things with a flashlight.

Words that come up: flashlight, flash, flick, floor, fly, on, off, dark, look, found, again, shine, bright, hide

Floating and sinking

Drop things in water and see what floats.

Words that come up: float, floating, flat, flip, flow, sink, again, more, wet, splash, look, down, up, try

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Flight plan

Plan a flight anywhere in the world and describe the trip.

Flip a coin

Make silly decisions by coin flip and explain each outcome.