# J Sound Word List

J is a /d/ and a ZH glued together. Stop the air with the tongue tip up behind the teeth, then release it into a voiced, lip-rounded buzz.



| SOUND | TYPICAL AGE | TYPE |
|---|---|---|
| /j/ | By age 4 | Voiced Postalveolar affricate |

**PRACTICE TIP**

Pair J with CH in minimal pairs (cheap/jeep, choke/joke) - same mouth, voice off versus voice on.

## Initial Position (60 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


jump


jar


juice


jeep


jam


jet


gym


jay

These and 21 more pictured words are in the J Sound picture cards.

### 1 Syllable

28 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| jump | gym | jade | jinx | junk |
| jar | judge | jaw | job | just |
| juice | join | jay | jog | gel |
| jeep | joke | jazz | jolt | gem |
| jam | June | jeans | joy | |
| jet | jack | jig | jug | |

### 2 Syllables

24 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| jacket | July | jester | journal | jumble |
| giraffe | gentle | jewel | journey | jumbo |
| jelly | jigsaw | jiffy | joystick | jump rope |
| giant | jaguar | jingle | juggle | ginger |
| jungle | jeep ride | jolly | juicy | |

### 3 Syllables

7 words

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| jewelry | jellyfish | gentleman | giraffe calf |
| janitor | generous | gingerbread | |

### 4 Syllables

1 word

January

**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.

**jumped, jumping, jumps**

## Medial Position (43 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.




These and 12 more pictured words are in the J Sound picture cards.

### 2 Syllables

21 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| magic | ranger | changes | fragile | pages |
| angel | banjo | dodgeball | gadget | |
| engine | pigeon | edges | hedges | |
| danger | bridges | enjoy | legend | |
| badger | badges | fidget | cages | |

### 3 Syllables

17 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| pajamas | courageous | garbage truck | villager | teenager |
| vegetable | dangerous | magical | banjo string | |
| imagine | energy | passenger | engine room | |
| oranges | engineer | pigeon coop | magic wand | |

### 4 Syllables

3 words

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| apologize | pajama top | vegetable soup |

### 5 Syllables

2 words

| | |
|---|---|
| refrigerator | imagination |

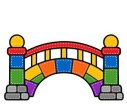
### High-frequency medial words

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.

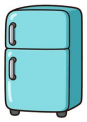
**changes, changing**

## Final Position (41 words)

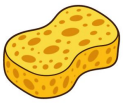
The sound is at the end of the word.


bridge


cage


fridge


badge


sponge


barge


fudge


hedge

These and 10 more pictured words are in the J Sound picture cards.

### 1 Syllable

27 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| bridge | large | barge | hinge | smudge |
| cage | fridge | bulge | ledge | stage |
| page | judge | charge | lodge | wedge |
| age | change | dodge | nudge | |
| edge | badge | fudge | plunge | |
| huge | sponge | hedge | ridge | |

### 2 Syllables

14 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| orange | package | garbage | courage | voyage |
| village | language | baggage | porridge | cabbage |
| message | image | carriage | sausage | |

### 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.

**change**

# 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

### Jumping game

Jump over a line, off a step, into a hoop. Announce each jump before it happens.

Words that come up: jump, jump up, giant, jet, jog, gym, juice, jelly, orange, bridge, cage, huge, edge, age

### Juice and jelly snack

Pour juice and spread jam, naming each thing as you pass it - "juice", "jam", "more" - so the words are there to borrow.

Words that come up: juice, jelly, jam, jar, orange, jug, large, huge, giant, page, more, bridge, change, gentle

### Jungle animals

Set up a jungle with toy animals. A giraffe and a jaguar do most of the work here.

Words that come up: jungle, jaguar, giraffe, giant, jump, jog, cage, large, huge, edge, danger, magic, page, bridge

## Conversation and verbal games for older kids

### Job interview

Interview each other for a made-up job. "Job," "just" and "generally" appear in nearly every answer.

### Judge it

Rate things out of ten and justify the score. "Judge," "just" and "generally" repeat.

### Journal a day

Talk through a day like a journal entry. "January," "June," "July," "just" and "journey" all fit.