L Sound Word List

Press the tongue tip up behind the top front teeth, keep the sides of the tongue down so the voice flows around them, and hum. The mouth stays open.



SOUND
/l/

TYPICAL AGE
By age 4

TYPE
Voiced Alveolar liquid

PRACTICE TIP

Gliding ("wion" for "lion") is the most common /l/ error. Have the child bite gently on their tongue tip and then hum - the sound that comes out is very close to /l/.

Initial Position (113 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


leg


light


lamp


lunch


leaf


lake


log


lock

These and 35 more pictured words are in the L Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

67 words

love	lane	leap	life	long
leg	lap	learn	lift	loop
light	large	leash	like	loose
lamp	lark	least	limb	lose
lunch	lash	leave	lime	lost
leaf	last	ledge	line	lot
lake	latch	left	link	loud
look	late	lend	lint	low
log	laugh	length	lip	luck
lock	launch	lens	list	lump
lace	lawn	less	load	lips
lag	lay	lick	loaf	
lamb	leak	lid	lodge	
land	lean	lie	lone	

2 Syllables

41 words

lion	label	lazy	lily	lotion
letter	ladle	leader	linen	loyal
lemon	lady	leather	liquid	luggage
ladder	lagoon	legend	litter	laughter
lizard	language	leopard	living	lucky
laundry	lantern	lesson	llama	
listen	later	level	locker	
little	lava	lever	locust	
lobster	layer	lightning	lonely	

3 Syllables

5 words

lollipop	ladybug	library	leftover	lullaby

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.

let, long, leave, looking, looks, least, leaving, lives, laughing, looked, loved, laugh, lived, loves, liked, listening, leaves, letting, learning, lets, listened, laughed, loudly, listens, learns

Medial Position (101 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.


yellow


balloon


pillow


jelly


salad


silly


chocolate


pilot

These and 52 more pictured words are in the L Sound picture cards.

2 Syllables

72 words

yellow	along	elbow	police	tulip
balloon	aloud	fallen	pollen	village
pillow	although	filling	railing	volume
color	always	follow	relax	wallet
jelly	asleep	gallon	roller	willow
salad	ballet	gallop	ruler	dolphin
silly	belly	hello	sailor	eyelash
ceiling	below	hollow	salute	balloons
dollar	billion	jealous	shallow	sailing
chocolate	bowling	lilac	silent	alarm
pilot	bullfrog	melon	silver	island
valley	cellar	million	solar	shoelace
alike	chili	mellow	solid	
alive	collar	olive	swallow	
allow	dolly	polar	tailor	

3 Syllables

26 words

elephant	violin	colorful	jelly bean	family
umbrella	holiday	deliver	koala	wallpaper
telephone	alphabet	delicious	melody	
eleven	already	elastic	telescope	
salami	calendar	envelope	yellow bird	
pelican	celery	gorilla	lollipop	

4 Syllables

3 words

alligator	helicopter	television

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.

really, only, always, hello, believe, family, already, actually, also, alone, probably, exactly, children, almost, telling, finally, follow, calling, absolutely, building, certainly, unless, quickly, especially, usually, helping, silly, following, although, color

Final Position (128 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.


ball


doll


bell


pool


girl


school


tail


whale

These and 76 more pictured words are in the L Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

58 words

ball	hill	full	real	tool
doll	mail	goal	rule	wall
bell	owl	growl	sail	well
pool	all	heel	scale	will
girl	bowl	mall	seal	wool
school	coal	mile	shell	yell
tail	cool	mole	snail	bull
whale	crawl	pale	spell	fill
wheel	fall	pearl	spill	hole
smile	feel	pile	stall	call
nail	file	pole	still	
oil	fool	quill	tall	

2 Syllables

67 words

apple	cable	fuel	nostril	sparkle
pencil	candle	giggle	paddle	table
towel	castle	handle	pedal	tickle
turtle	cattle	hotel	people	travel
camel	chisel	jungle	petal	tunnel
squirrel	circle	kettle	pickle	uncle
angel	couple	level	puddle	vowel
ankle	cuddle	marble	puzzle	whistle
bagel	cymbal	medal	rattle	wiggle
barrel	dial	metal	sandal	little
beetle	eagle	model	shovel	muscle
bottle	easel	mural	simple	
bubble	equal	nickel	single	
bundle	fossil	noodle	snuggle	

3 Syllables

3 words

bicycle	animal	turtle shell

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.

will, feel, girl, whole, until, beautiful, full, special, pull, careful, wonderful, middle, smell, smile, awful, several, spill

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

Look and find

A picture book or an I-spy game. "Look" is the highest-value /l/ word a toddler has.

Words that come up: look, little, light, love, lion, leg, lap, ball, doll, all, fall, tall, pull, bell

Lights on, lights off

Flip a light switch, use a lamp, use a flashlight. Narrate every flip.

Words that come up: light, lamp, look, on, off, little, dark, all, pull, fall, tall, ball, help, well

Lining things up

Line up cars, animals or blocks in a long row. Count the line, then knock it down.

Words that come up: line, long, little, look, last, line up, all, ball, tall, fall, pull, roll, well, hill

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Lists of favorites

Make a top-ten list out loud. "List," "like," "love" and "last" all repeat.

Lately

Talk about what you have been up to lately. "Lately," "little," "lot" and "like" carry it.

Would you believe

Tell a tall tale. "Believe," "little," "almost" and "actually" are all loaded with /l/.