# P Sound Word List

Press both lips together, build up a little air behind them, then pop them open. Nothing buzzes in the throat - /p/ is a quiet, breathy pop.



| SOUND | TYPICAL AGE | TYPE |
|---|---|---|
| /p/ | By age 2-3 | Voiceless Bilabial stop |

**PRACTICE TIP**

Hold a strip of tissue or a feather in front of the child's mouth. A good /p/ makes it flutter. If it barely moves, they may be saying /b/ instead.

## Initial Position (115 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


pig


pan


pen


pot


pop


park


peach


pear

These and 87 more pictured words are in the P Sound picture cards.

### 1 Syllable

52 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| pig | pull | pin | palm | pole |
| pan | paint | pink | page | pup |
| pen | pair | pipe | pail | purr |
| pot | pants | poke | patch | pad |
| pop | paw | pond | path | part |
| park | pea | porch | peak | put |
| peach | peas | post | pearl | pass |
| pear | peek | pouch | pest | point |
| pie | peel | pound | pier | |
| pool | pet | pour | pitch | |
| push | pick | purse | pod | |

### 2 Syllables

54 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| pizza | puzzle | pepper | puddle | pigeon |
| puppy | pancake | picnic | puppet | pixie |
| pumpkin | panda | picture | palace | possum |
| purple | parade | pilot | paddle | poster |
| pencil | parent | pirate | panther | puma |
| penny | parrot | pitcher | patient | putty |
| paper | party | poem | peacock | parking |
| pillow | pasta | police | pebble | porridge |
| pocket | peanut | poodle | perfume | popping |
| pony | pedal | powder | petal | penguin |
| popcorn | people | pudding | pickle | |

### 3 Syllables

8 words

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| piano | pineapple | pajamas | porcupine |
| pelican | pyramid | polka dot | potato |

### 4 Syllables

1 word

peanut butter

**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.

**put, perhaps, pull, piece, paid, putting, picked, pulled, paying, paint, painting, pushed, puts, pushing, pays, painted, picks, pulls, pouring, poured, pushes, paints, pours**

## Medial Position (91 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.


apple


happy


puppy


zipper


paper


napkin


open


hippo

These and 47 more pictured words are in the P Sound picture cards.

### 2 Syllables

67 words

apple
happy
puppy
zipper
paper
napkin
open
copy
hippo
super
carpet
teapot
slipper
popcorn
airplane
cupcake
tiptoe
chipmunk
apart
captain
copper
helping
hopping
jumping
keeping
leopard
lipstick
magpie
mopping
napping
pepper
puppet
rapid
ripple
shopping
sleeping
stepping
supper
surprise
tapping
topping
typing
upon
upper
upset
wiping
chapter
dripping
flipper
maple
repair
repeat
ripping
shepherd
shipping
skipping
snapping
stopping
upstairs
wrapper
popping
hoping
shampoo
grumpy
diaper
soapy
toothpaste

### 3 Syllables

20 words

popsicle
wallpaper
computer
peppermint
opossum
apartment
capital
carpenter
grasshopper
paperclip
stapler
apricot
copycat
hospital
newspaper
recipe
sandpaper
September
octopus
zookeeper

### 4 Syllables

4 words

caterpillar
helicopter
superhero
supermarket

**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.

**happened, open, happen, supposed, happens, happening, suppose, especially, sleeping, upon, helping, upstairs, keeping, empty, hoping, grandpa, opened, opens, opening, stopping, dropping, jumping, sleepy, clapping, supposes**

## Final Position (96 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.


cup


mop


top


map


cap


soap


rope


sheep

These and 53 more pictured words are in the P Sound picture cards.

### 1 Syllable

80 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| cup | grape | drip | scoop | chirp |
| up | ship | drop | shop | clip |
| mop | keep | flap | sip | crisp |
| top | jump | flip | skip | group |
| map | help | gulp | slip | pup |
| cap | sharp | hip | snap | shrimp |
| soap | wipe | hoop | soup | snip |
| rope | shape | lamp | step | stoop |
| sheep | stamp | leap | stripe | strip |
| jeep | harp | loop | sweep | stump |
| tape | camp | nap | swipe | swamp |
| lip | cheap | pipe | tip | whoop |
| chip | clap | pump | trap | yelp |
| hop | creep | ramp | trip | cape |
| stop | crop | rip | wrap | chop |
| sleep | deep | ripe | zip | pop |

## 2 Syllables

13 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| tulip | hilltop | rooftop | tiptop | asleep |
| gallop | jump rope | syrup | turnip | |
| hiccup | ketchup | teacup | workshop | |

## 3 Syllables

3 words

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| envelope | lollipop | tabletop |

### 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.

**up, help, stop, hope, sleep**

# 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

### Bubbles

Blow a few, then model the word as you dip the wand again - "pop", "more", "up". Say it for them before they have to say it themselves. Let them pop bubbles with a finger, an elbow, a toe.

Words that come up: pop, up, please, more, open, help, big, bubble, pop it, my turn, purple, puff, top, stop

### Puppet snack time

Feed a puppet pretend food. Let the puppet be a picky eater who spits things out with a loud "PLEH!" Kids will feed it the same thing over and over just to hear it.

Words that come up: puppet, pizza, popcorn, apple, grape, pear, cup, spit, please, open, up, more, nope, yuck, soup

### Pop-up and knock-down

Stack paper cups into a tower and knock them down with a beanbag. Count them up, then name what each cup is hiding underneath.

Words that come up: cup, up, top, tip, drop, oops, pile, help, push, jump, pick up, one more, my turn, stop

## Conversation and verbal games for older kids

**Pizza topping debate**

Argue for the perfect pizza. Every topping is a target, and so is the word "topping" itself. Take turns adding one and defending it.

**Twenty questions: playground**

Think of playground or park equipment. Slide, swing, hopscotch, jump rope, sandpit - the /p/ words come out in the guesses, not just the answers.

**Spot the plan**

Describe a plan for the weekend in three steps: first, next, last. Plans, trips, parties and practice are all high-/p/ topics.