PL Blend Word List

Pop the lips for /p/ and lift the tongue tip to the ridge for /l/ at the same moment the lips open.



SOUND	TYPICAL AGE	TYPE
/pl/	By age 5	Voiceless Stop + liquid cluster

PRACTICE TIP

PL is one of the earliest blends to come in. If it is missing, check whether /l/ itself is still being glided to /w/.

PL does not occur often in the middle or at the end of English words, so this page practices it at the beginning.

Initial Position (16 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.

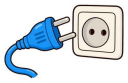

play


plane


plate


plant


plum


plug


plaid


plow

These and 3 more pictured words are in the PL Blend picture cards.

1 Syllable

12 words

play	plant	plug	plow
plane	plus	please	plank
plate	plum	plaid	place

2 Syllables

4 words

plastic	planet	playground	plenty

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.

please, play, playing, played, plays

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

Playground plans

Plan and act out a playground trip with toys.

Words that come up: play, playing, plan, plane, plus, please, more, again, slide, swing, my turn, go, up, down

Plate setting

Set a table with plates for toys, then serve pretend food.

Words that come up: plate, please, plenty, plus, play, more, again, put, here, eat, thank you, full, empty, done

Plane flying

Fly paper planes and toy planes around the room.

Words that come up: plane, play, plus, plan, please, fly, again, more, up, down, fast, crash, throw, my turn

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Plan a party

Plan an event down to the details. "Plan," "plenty" and "place" repeat.

Pick a place

Describe a place you would like to go and why.