# S Sound Word List

Teeth closed gently, tongue tip pointed up behind the top teeth (or down behind the bottom teeth - both work), sides of the tongue sealed against the back teeth. Blow a thin, steady stream down the middle.



| SOUND | TYPICAL AGE | TYPE |
|---|---|---|
| /s/ | By age 4 | Voiceless Alveolar fricative |

**PRACTICE TIP**

A lispy /s/ usually means the tongue is sticking out or the air is escaping sideways. Cue "keep your teeth closed like a fence and let the air sneak through."

## Initial Position (107 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


sun


sock


soap


sit


six


sand


soup


seal

These and 49 more pictured words are in the S Sound picture cards.

### 1 Syllable

59 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| sun | sad | seat | silk | some |
| sock | safe | seed | sink | song |
| soap | sag | seek | sip | soon |
| sit | said | seem | sir | sort |
| see | salt | sell | size | sound |
| six | same | send | so | south |
| sand | sat | serve | soak | soy |
| soup | sauce | set | soar | suit |
| seal | save | sew | soft | sum |
| sing | say | side | soil | surf |
| saw | scene | sight | sold | sack |
| sail | sea | sign | solve | |

### 2 Syllables

43 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| seven | sandwich | seagull | simple | supper |
| salad | saddle | season | siren | surprise |
| sister | sailor | second | sixteen | soapy |
| circle | sample | secret | soccer | sunny |
| sofa | sandal | seesaw | solid | sailboat |
| silly | sardine | sentence | sorry | sandals |
| city | sausage | settle | sunset | sour |
| summer | science | sidewalk | sunshine | |
| suitcase | scissors | silver | super | |

### 3 Syllables

5 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| cereal | celery | safari | September | seventy |

**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.

**so, some, something, sorry, someone, saw, since, saying, says, soon, somebody, sister, supposed, seems, send, sometimes, sort, sent, seem, somewhere, seeing, suppose, certainly, seven, sitting, sad, singing, silly, seemed, several**

## Medial Position (79 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.


pencil


castle


whisper


faucet


ice cream


messy


bracelet


whistle

These and 36 more pictured words are in the S Sound picture cards.

### 2 Syllables

56 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| pencil | glasses | decide | racing | spacesuit |
| castle | dressing | fussy | rescue | icing |
| whisper | tasty | guessing | sausage | dresser |
| faucet | absent | insect | seesaw | sunset |
| muscle | aside | inside | tassel | pieces |
| recess | asleep | lasso | thirsty | baseball |
| ice cream | bassoon | listen | tossing | dancer |
| messy | basket | missing | useful | fossil |
| lesson | beside | mustard | wrestle | |
| bracelet | blossom | outside | classroom | |
| whistle | classic | passing | ice skate | |
| racer | dancing | princess | racecar | |

### 3 Syllables

18 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| bicycle | grocery | passenger | castle wall | whistle blow |
| dinosaur | gasoline | pencil case | glasses case | listening |
| eraser | fantasy | possible | messy room | |
| popsicle | grasshopper | recipe | sunset time | |

### 4 Syllables

5 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| dinosaur bone | eraser cap | popsicle stick | pacifier | motorcycle |

**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.

**understand, yourself, also, myself, inside, sister, outside, himself, asking, absolutely, yesterday, instead, especially, listening, themselves, herself, ourselves, upstairs, itself, understood, dancing, downstairs, chasing, uses, beside, listened, thirsty, guessing, understands, kisses**

## Final Position (95 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.


bus


house


mouse


ice


juice


dress


glass


grass

These and 48 more pictured words are in the S Sound picture cards.

### 1 Syllable

71 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| bus | purse | fence | moss | spruce |
| house | rice | floss | niece | this |
| mouse | gas | fox | nurse | toss |
| ice | pass | fuss | pants | twice |
| juice | dice | geese | peace | us |
| nice | kiss | grease | piece | vase |
| dress | base | guess | place | voice |
| glass | bless | hiss | plus | yes |
| grass | boss | lace | price | bounce |
| horse | brass | less | race | chance |
| class | case | loose | rinse | lips |
| face | chess | mess | sauce | |
| box | cross | mice | six | |
| moose | cups | miss | slice | |
| goose | dance | mix | space | |

## 2 Syllables

19 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| princess | circus | promise | entrance | recess |
| police | mattress | walrus | necklace | erase |
| address | office | balance | staircase | lettuce |
| cactus | palace | distance | suitcase | |

## 3 Syllables

4 words

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| octopus | ambulance | fireplace | orange juice |

## 4 Syllables

1 word

pineapple juice

### 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.

**this, yes, us, thanks, once, use, since, looks, wants, its, makes, gets, perhaps, piece, worse, unless, thinks, across, twice, starts, keeps, drinks, talks, helps, puts, lets, asks, breaks, tastes, fits**

# 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

### Snake in the sand

A toy snake that slithers through sand, rice or a sensory bin. Make it hiss - the hiss IS the sound.

Words that come up: snake, sand, sss, silly, see, sit, stop, slow, soft, inside, hiss, this, yes, bus

### Bus stop

A toy bus that picks up passengers. Say where each one is going as it climbs aboard.

Words that come up: bus, stop, sit, seat, so, see, six, yes, us, this, please, off, outside, house

### Silly soup

Put ridiculous things into a pretend soup pot - a sock, a spoon, a star. The sillier the better.

Words that come up: soup, sock, spoon, sun, star, silly, some, stir, see, yes, this, gross, mess, taste

## Conversation and verbal games for older kids

**Same and different**

Compare two things in three ways. "Same," "similar" and "different" are all /s/, and so is most of the comparison language.

**Story starters**

Draw a random object and start a story with it. "So," "said," "suddenly" and "someone" run through every story.

**Sports scores**

Talk through a game, real or invented. Score, save, pass, season, start and stats are all targets.