SH Sound Word List

Pull the tongue back a little from the /s/ spot, make a wider channel, and round the lips like you are about to whistle. Blow a broad, hushed stream of air.



SOUND	TYPICAL AGE	TYPE
/sh/	By age 4	Voiceless Postalveolar fricative

PRACTICE TIP

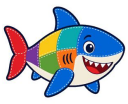
Start with the "be quiet" gesture - finger to lips, shhhh. Kids already own this sound in play; the job is moving it into words.

Initial Position (60 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


shoe


ship


shark


sheep


shirt


shell


share


shine

These and 34 more pictured words are in the SH Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

35 words

shoe	shop	shy	shave	should
ship	share	shed	she	shout
shark	shape	shack	shield	show
sheep	shine	shade	shift	shush
shirt	shelf	shake	shin	sure
shell	sheet	shall	shore	chef
shut	shorts	sharp	short	chute

2 Syllables

23 words

shovel	shoulder	shepherd	shoelace	shipwreck
shower	shaggy	sheriff	shuffle	shoebox
sugar	shallow	shimmer	shuttle	shortcake
shampoo	shamrock	shiny	sheepdog	
shadow	shatter	shiver	shellfish	

3 Syllables

2 words

shopping cart	shower cap

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.

she, should, sure, showed, showing, shared, sharing, shares

Medial Position (54 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.


fishing


washing


ocean


dishes


mushroom


brushing


cushion


lotion

These and 17 more pictured words are in the SH Sound picture cards.

2 Syllables

42 words

fishing	cushion	action	hushing	washer
washing	lotion	crashing	mansion	washcloth
ocean	seashell	crushing	mission	wishbone
dishes	wishing	dashing	potion	trash can
station	sunshine	fashion	precious	bushes
motion	patient	flashing	seashore	milkshake
machine	pushing	fraction	shushing	
mushroom	rushing	glacier	special	
brushing	flashlight	gushing	splashing	

3 Syllables

9 words

delicious	direction	permission	gas station	eyelashes
vacation	fisherman	rocket ship	addition	

4 Syllables

3 words

dictionary	invitation	lotion bottle

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.

special, especially, wishes, pushing, finishing, wishing, pushes, finishes, washes

Final Position (45 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.


fish


dish


brush


wash


push


trash


bush


splash

These and 16 more pictured words are in the SH Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

32 words

fish	bush	rush	harsh	sash
dish	splash	ash	hush	shush
brush	leash	blush	lash	slush
wash	wish	clash	marsh	swish
push	flash	dash	mash	
trash	squash	gosh	mush	
cash	fresh	gush	plush	

2 Syllables

12 words

toothbrush	eyelash	relish	starfish
finish	paintbrush	vanish	sunfish
radish	English	goldfish	swordfish

3 Syllables

1 word

jellyfish

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.

finish

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

Shopping trip

Set up a pretend shop with a basket and play money. Take turns being the shopkeeper, so you model the asking on your turns too.

Words that come up: shop, shoe, shirt, sugar, shelf, cash, push, show me, wash, dish, fish, brush, shut, shell

Washing station

Wash toy dishes or toy cars in soapy water. Scrub, rinse and dry each one.

Words that come up: wash, dish, splash, shine, brush, shake, finish, shirt, push, shh, fresh, rush, shower, shampoo

Sleeping animals

Put stuffed animals to bed and shush them. Anyone who wakes up gets shushed again.

Words that come up: shh, sleep, shush, quiet, wake, shut, sheep, shoulder, shake, fish, wish, brush, blanket, shadow

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Show and tell

Describe something you own and why it matters. "Show" and "share" anchor it.

Shopping spree

Spend an imaginary hundred dollars, item by item, and justify each purchase.

Should or should not

Debate school or house rules. "Should," "shouldn't" and "sure" repeat constantly.