T Sound Word List

Lift the tongue tip up behind the top front teeth, onto the little bump (the alveolar ridge). Build up air, then release it in a quick tap. No voice.



SOUND	TYPICAL AGE	TYPE
/t/	By age 3-4	Voiceless Alveolar stop

PRACTICE TIP

Tap a finger on the table each time you say /t/ - the rhythm helps kids feel how short and crisp the sound should be.

Initial Position (97 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


top


toe


ten


toy


two


teeth


tent


tape

These and 51 more pictured words are in the T Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

52 words

top	tack	tease	toad	tour
toe	tag	tee	toast	tow
ten	talk	teen	told	tuck
toy	tall	tell	tone	tug
two	tan	test	tongue	tune
teeth	tank	tide	tool	turn
tent	tap	tie	tooth	tusk
tape	tart	tile	torch	take
tail	taste	time	toss	
town	tea	tin	touch	
tub	team	tip	tough	

2 Syllables

36 words

table	tickle	tennis	today	tugboat
tiger	turkey	tepee	toddler	tulip
turtle	tadpole	ticket	tonight	tuna
taco	target	tidy	toothbrush	turnip
towel	taxi	tiny	tortoise	
teacher	teacup	tire	total	
tunnel	teapot	tissue	tower	
toaster	temple	title	tuba	

3 Syllables

8 words

tomato	tambourine	terrible	tornado
telephone	teddy bear	together	tuxedo

4 Syllables

1 word

television

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.

to, take, two, told, today, talking, together, took, tomorrow, turn, taking, telling, taken, turned, tired, talked, teacher, taste, tells, turning, touched, talks, toward, touching, tastes, touches, tasted, tasting

Medial Position (18 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.


guitar


baton


cartoon


empty


lighthouse


toaster


potato


tomato

These and 1 more pictured words are in the T Sound picture cards.

2 Syllables

13 words

guitar	cartoon	fifty	poster	motel
hotel	eighteen	lighthouse	until	
baton	empty	nineteen	toaster	

3 Syllables

4 words

potato	tomato	fantastic	yesterday

4 Syllables

1 word

tomato soup

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.

into, after, wanted, understand, until, beautiful, exactly, waiting, started, sister, between, sometimes, outside, absolutely, yesterday, instead, certainly, sitting, afternoon, starting, eating, putting, dirty, upstairs, writing, empty, itself, gotten, understood, onto

Final Position (115 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.


cat


hat


boat


foot


hot


eat


gate


night

These and 82 more pictured words are in the T Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

86 words

cat	street	float	pet	suit
hat	ant	flute	pot	sweet
boat	bat	fort	print	tent
foot	bait	gift	rat	toast
hot	beet	heart	right	trout
out	belt	jet	root	wait
eat	bit	kit	salt	weight
gate	boot	knight	seat	white
night	bright	knot	shirt	wheat
light	but	lift	short	taste
kite	chart	mat	shout	bite
coat	chat	meat	skate	cute
feet	chest	mitt	skirt	get
goat	cut	moat	sort	late
wet	date	net	spot	
sit	dot	nut	sprout	
plate	eight	oat	squirt	
fruit	flat	paint	start	

2 Syllables

26 words

robot	bucket	magnet	quiet	carpet
rabbit	cricket	parrot	rocket	chocolate
carrot	doughnut	peanut	target	
basket	exit	pilot	yogurt	
helmet	grapefruit	pirate	closet	
blanket	jacket	pocket	minute	

3 Syllables

3 words

elephant apricot coconut

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.

it, that, what, not, get, out, about, at, got, let, thought, put, great, might, next, without, bit, yet, eat, minute, different, asked, quite, against, least, cut, almost, front, hot, sort

Flap and glottal contexts (65 words)

These are medial T words in spelling, but not in speech. Between a stressed and an unstressed vowel, American English turns /t/ into a quick


water


button


kitten


letter


city


mitten


painting


waiter

These and 19 more pictured words are in the T Sound picture cards.

2 Syllables

60 words

water	bottom	dentist	little	sitting
button	attic	dirty	matter	skater
kitten	waiter	eating	mountain	spotted
letter	sweater	fountain	notice	tattle
better	beauty	getting	plenty	turtle
city	biting	hunter	pretty	twenty
motor	bottle	item	printer	waiting
pattern	butter	kettle	putting	winter
mitten	cattle	kitty	quarter	writer
cotton	chatter	lantern	rattle	heater
painting	cheetah	lettuce	rotten	brighter
shouting	cutting	litter	scooter	mittens

3 Syllables

5 words

computer	seventy	vitamin	hospital	butterfly

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

Toy garage and cars

Drive toy cars up a ramp and down again. Make them crash gently, get stuck, and need a tow.

Words that come up: toy, car, top, go, stop, stuck, out, wait, fast, hit, tow, turn, down, up, tires

Tea party

Pour pretend tea for stuffed animals. Let one spill and need a towel. Narrate as you pour and offer seconds - "more tea", "too hot", "thank you".

Words that come up: tea, teapot, cup, pour, hot, taste, towel, more, thank you, wait, sit, out, that, drink

Tickle and stop

A simple turn-taking game. Tickle for two seconds, then stop and say the word yourself - "more", "again" - before starting again. Any signal counts, a look or a reach included.

Words that come up: tickle, stop, more, toes, tummy, wait, again, my turn, not yet, that, hot, cut it out

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Two truths and a tale

Say three things about your week; the listener guesses which one is made up. "Truth," "tale," and "tell" are all targets, and so is most of the storytelling.

Time travel

Where would you go and what would you take? The past, the future, tomorrow and next time all carry /t/.

Category tennis

Bat a category back and forth - types of transport, things in a toolbox, sports teams - until someone runs out.