TW Blend Word List

Tap the tongue tip for /t/ while the lips are already rounding for /w/, then glide into the vowel.



SOUND
/tw/

TYPICAL AGE
By age 5

TYPE
Voiceless Stop + glide cluster

PRACTICE TIP

Remember that "two" and "sword" are spelled with a W but have no /w/ sound - skip them in practice.

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

Initial Position (15 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.

1 Syllable

8 words

twelve	twist	tweet	twice
twin	twig	twirl	twine

2 Syllables

5 words

twenty	twinkle	tweezers	twilight	twister

3 Syllables

2 words

twenty-one	twinkling

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.

twice

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

Twinkle twinkle

Sing it with hand actions, pausing before "twinkle" to let them fill it in.

Words that come up: twinkle, twinkling, twelve, twenty, twist, again, more, star, sing, my turn, up, high, song, night

Twisting lids

Twist lids on and off jars and bottles.

Words that come up: twist, twisting, twirl, twin, twelve, again, more, open, close, my turn, tight, off, on, help

Twin matching

Find matching pairs - twin socks, twin cards.

Words that come up: twin, twins, two, twelve, twenty, match, same, again, more, my turn, found, look, pair, done

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Twenty questions

The classic. "Twenty" starts every round.

Twist ending

Retell a familiar story with a twist ending.