Voiceless TH Sound Word List

Stick the tongue tip out just barely between the teeth and blow air over the top of it. No voice - just a quiet leak of air.



SOUND
/th/

TYPICAL AGE
By age 6

TYPE
Voiceless Interdental fricative

PRACTICE TIP

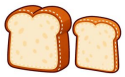
Let the child watch in a mirror. If they can see a sliver of tongue between their teeth and feel air on it, they have it.

Initial Position (34 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


thumb


thin


thick


thorn


thigh


thirsty


thistle


thumbtack

These and 4 more pictured words are in the Voiceless TH Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

14 words

thumb	thick	thigh	third	thud
think	thank	thaw	thirst	thump
thin	thorn	thing	thought	

2 Syllables

15 words

thirty	thousand	Thursday	thimble	thoughtful
thirsty	thistle	thermos	thirteen	thumbprint
thunder	thumbtack	thicket	thinner	thinking

3 Syllables

5 words

theater	thunderstorm	thirstier	thunderbolt	thundercloud

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.

think, thank, thing, thought, things, thanks, thinking, thinks, third, thin, thick, thirsty

Medial Position (34 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.


bathtub


birthday


toothbrush


python


panther


earthworm


toothpaste


bathrobe

These and 7 more pictured words are in the Voiceless TH Sound picture cards.

2 Syllables

23 words

bathtub	python	toothpaste	bathroom	southwest
birthday	healthy	bathrobe	faithful	toothless
toothbrush	panther	toothpick	pathway	toothpicks
something	author	athlete	truthful	
nothing	earthworm	bathmat	earthquake	

3 Syllables

9 words

anything	athletic	everything	birthday cake	toothbrushes
marathon	cathedral	panther cub	healthier	

4 Syllables

2 words

mathematics	arithmetic

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.

something, anything, nothing, everything, without, birthday

Final Position (36 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.


bath


tooth


mouth


teeth


path


moth


earth


wreath

These and 3 more pictured words are in the Voiceless TH Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

30 words

bath	moth	breath	birth	strength
tooth	south	fifth	booth	tenth
math	earth	sixth	broth	truth
mouth	cloth	wreath	fourth	twelfth
teeth	both	health	length	warmth
path	month	sloth	ninth	eighth

2 Syllables

4 words

beneath	seventh	birdbath	sweet tooth

3 Syllables

2 words

tablecloth	underneath

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.

month

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

Thumbs up game

Show things and give them a thumbs up or thumbs down. Let them judge everything in the room.

Words that come up: thumb, think, thank you, three, thin, thick, bath, tooth, math, mouth, teeth, path, both, north

Toothbrush routine

Brush a doll's teeth, then your own. Count the teeth, check the mouth, talk about what is thick or thin.

Words that come up: tooth, teeth, mouth, thumb, thick, thin, bath, thirsty, three, health, cloth, both, think, thanks

Counting to three

Use "one, two, three" to launch every activity - jumping, throwing, racing. "Three" gets said dozens of times.

Words that come up: three, thirty, think, thumb, thank you, throw, both, math, path, with, teeth, thin, thick, thud

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Think out loud

Solve a riddle or a puzzle while narrating your thinking. "Think," "thought" and "through" repeat constantly.

Thankful three

Name three things you are thankful for and why. "Thank," "think" and "three" every single round.

Math talk

Talk through a math problem out loud. "Math," "three," "thirty," "thousand" and "both" all carry the sound.