W Sound Word List

Round the lips into a tight little circle, pull the back of the tongue up and back, then glide straight into the vowel. /w/ is a movement, not a hold.



SOUND	TYPICAL AGE	TYPE
/w/	By age 2-3	Voiced Labiovelar glide

PRACTICE TIP

Exaggerate the lip round - "make a fish face, then say oo-oo-water."

/w/ is a glide and never ends an English word, so this page has initial and medial lists only. Remember that "two" and "sword" have no /w/ sound.

Initial Position (105 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


watch


wet


web


wall


walk


worm


wood


wing

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

1 Syllable

73 words

watch	wag	weak	when	wipe
wet	waist	wear	where	wise
web	wait	weave	which	witch
wall	wake	wedge	whiff	with
walk	wand	weed	while	woke
wish	want	week	whine	wool
worm	warm	weep	whirl	word
wood	warn	weigh	why	work
wing	was	weight	wick	world
wave	wash	well	wide	worse
wolf	wasp	went	wife	would
wheel	waste	were	wig	wove
whale	wax	west	wild	wow
white	way	what	will	
wade	we	wheat	win	

2 Syllables

30 words

water	wizard	weasel	whimper	winner
wagon	waffle	weather	whisker	winter
window	waiter	wedding	whisper	wire
woman	walkway	weekend	whistle	wobble
wallet	wander	welcome	wiggle	wonder
walrus	washer	wetland	willow	worry

3 Syllables

2 words

wheelbarrow	wonderful

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.

what, we, was, with, one, will, when, would, where, were, which, wanted, woman, without, once, wants, watch, working, waiting, week, wow, worked, wonderful, worse, watching, weekend, walked, weak, wet, waited

Medial Position (44 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.


sandwich


seaweed


highway


cobweb


kiwi


railway


sidewalk


stairway

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

2 Syllables

35 words

away	cobweb	backward	driftwood	runway
sandwich	kiwi	awake	earthworm	somewhere
hallway	rewind	homework	freeway	stopwatch
seaweed	always	pinwheel	halfway	subway
driveway	railway	awoke	onward	unwind
highway	sidewalk	backwards	password	upward
beeswax	stairway	doorway	reward	woodwork

3 Syllables

8 words

firewood	everywhere	saltwater	underwear
anyway	rainwater	silverware	waterway

4 Syllables

1 word

underwater

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.

away, always, someone, everyone, anyone, between, somewhere, anywhere, usually, everywhere, nowhere, toward

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

Water play

Pour, splash and scoop water between containers. Ask "what" and "where" constantly.

Words that come up: water, wet, what, where, wow, we, want, wash, one, why, wait, away, work, walk

Wagon rides

Pull toys in a wagon around the room, stopping to load and unload.

Words that come up: wagon, want, we, walk, wait, wheel, way, where, what, one, whee, again, go, win

Wind-up toys

Wind up a toy and let it go. Say "wind it up" each time you do it, so the words are there to borrow.

Words that come up: wind up, want, wow, watch, wait, where, what, we, why, one, again, go, whee, win

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Who what where

Play a question game where every question starts with a WH word. Most of them are /w/.

Would you rather

The word "would" starts every round, and "want" appears in every answer.

Weekend recap

Talk about the weekend. "Weekend," "we," "went," "was" and "watched" carry the whole thing.