# Y Sound Word List

Raise the middle of the tongue toward the roof of the mouth, smile the lips wide, and glide into the vowel.



| SOUND | TYPICAL AGE | TYPE |
|---|---|---|
| /j/ | By age 3-4 | Voiced Palatal glide |

**PRACTICE TIP**

Kids who cannot find /j/ often do well starting from a long "ee" - say "ee-ee-yellow" and let the ee slide into the word.

/j/ is a glide and never ends an English word, so this page has initial and medial lists only.

## Initial Position (39 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


yarn


yard


yawn


yolk


yak


yam


yellow


yogurt

These and 8 more pictured words are in the Y Sound picture cards.

### 1 Syllable

18 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| yes | young | yell | yap | yuck |
| you | yawn | yak | yelp | use |
| yarn | year | yam | your | |
| yard | yolk | yank | yours | |

### 2 Syllables

11 words

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| yellow | useful | yawning | yodel |
| yogurt | yardstick | yearbook | yoga |
| yummy | yarn ball | yeti | |

### 3 Syllables

7 words

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| uniform | yesterday | yoyo string | usual |
| unicorn | yellow bus | universe | |

### 4 Syllables

3 words

unicycle uniform shirt unicorn horn

### 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.

**your, yes, yourself, used, yet, use, year, young, yours, yesterday, using, usually, uses, yay**

## Medial Position (18 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.


canyon


onion


backyard


barnyard


stallion


yoyo


barbecue


computer

All in the Y Sound picture cards.

### 2 Syllables

13 words

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| canyon | barnyard | rescue | billion | yoyo |
| onion | million | amuse | shipyard | |
| backyard | courtyard | argue | stallion | |

### 3 Syllables

3 words

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| barbecue | computer | continue |

### 4 Syllables

2 words

| | |
|---|---|
| ridiculous | unusual |

# 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

### Yes and no sorting

Sort pictures into a yes pile and a no pile. Every single item gets a "yes" or a "no."

Words that come up: yes, yeah, you, your, yellow, yum, yuck, yawn, yo-yo, year, yet, young, yard, yarn

### Yellow hunt

Find every yellow thing in the room. Yellow gets said dozens of times without feeling like drill.

Words that come up: yellow, yes, you, your, yuck, yum, yard, yo-yo, young, year, yawn, yank, yell, yet

### Yo-yo and yarn play

Roll yarn into a ball, wind a yo-yo, tie things together.

Words that come up: yo-yo, yarn, yes, you, your, yank, yellow, yep, young, yard, year, yell, yawn, yum

## Conversation and verbal games for older kids

**You would never guess**

Tell a surprising true story. "You" and "your" appear in nearly every sentence.

**Yesterday, today, tomorrow**

Compare the three. "Yesterday" and "you" anchor every turn.

**Yes-and improv**

Build a scene where every reply starts with "yes, and." The word starts every turn by design.