

Reading Newsletter

April 2023



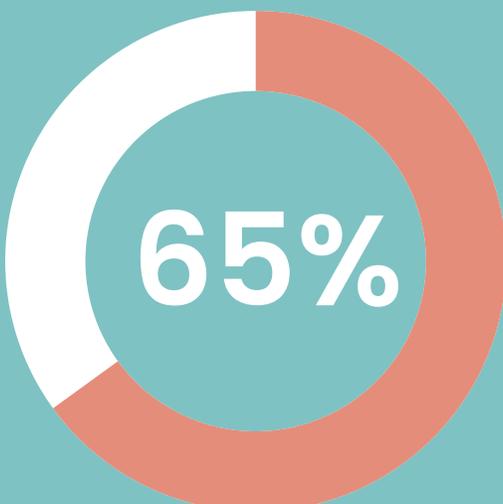
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Chariho Reads

Did you know?

High Frequency Words make up about



65%

of words in text.



High Frequency Words, Sight Words, Heart Words..oh my!

You may hear your child's teacher use one (or all) of these terms. They can get confusing, so let's break down what each term means.

High Frequency Words

This refers to the **most commonly** used words in text. For example, words like *is, the, because, what, when, a, at,* and *in* are high frequency words.

Researchers have put together lists of the most common 300+ words. It is important for students to have these high frequency words become **sight words** so they can quickly and efficiently read.

Sight Words

Sight words are any words that can be **automatically recognized** "by sight" without decoding. A sight word could be the word "the," but it could also be the child's name. Everyone's sight word bank looks different.

We want high frequency words, because they appear so often, to become sight words so they do not slow children down when they read.

Heart Words

Heart words is a **strategy** for teaching children high frequency words that helps them become sight words. This strategy focuses on the part of the word that the child cannot sound out or hasn't learned yet and has to know "by heart."

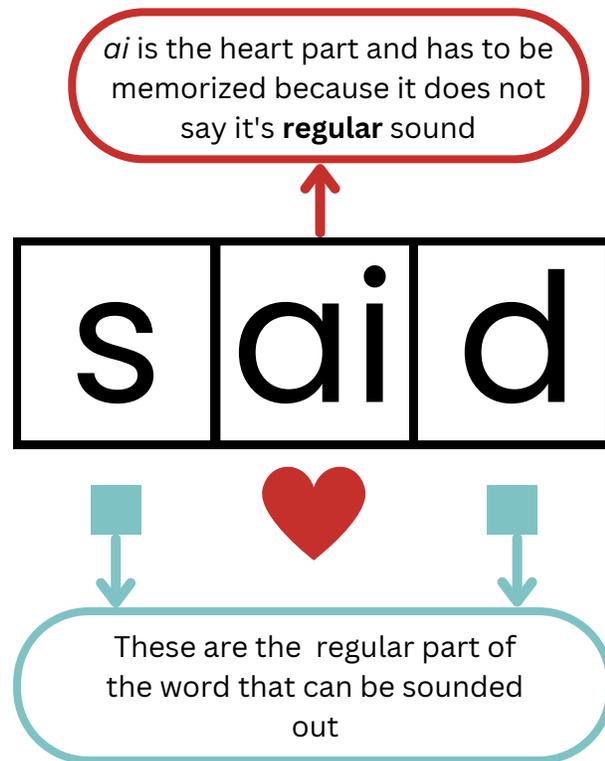
*These are typically taught in grades K - 2 and on an as needed basis in the upper grades

More About Heart Words



Many high frequency words have regular sounding parts and children can sound out **MOST** parts, but there may be parts that have **irregular patterns or patterns not yet taught**. These parts are called “heart parts” because they need to know it “by heart.” This strategy helps map the word in a child's brain and lead to it becoming a **sight word** for the child.

Let's take the word **said** for example. Said has three sounds, two are regular and one is NOT regular.



Tips and Tricks to Try At Home

*Practice reading and spelling these words at home. Your child's teacher can provide a list of current words being taught.
Make it FUN using some of the ideas below!*

- Put words around the house on sticky notes or index cards and have children go on a scavenger hunt to find and read the words.
- Put words on sticky notes on a table or wall and turn off the lights. Have children use a flashlight to shine on the word and read it.
- Spell words in chalk, in shaving cream, or in sand.
- Build the words out of legos, blocks, or popsicle sticks.
- Incorporate the words into any board game by having children read or spell a word before they can take a turn.