

# Dictation

Dictation is one of the most effective ways to teach children to write. Sentences for dictation are provided below. This needs to be systematically taught in the following way.

## Progression of teaching the skill of writing through dictation

- Initially only dictate letter sounds that have been taught e.g. "I want you to write the letter sound /b/." After the children have written it down, form it correctly on the board. The children may like to put a tick by their letter if they have written it correctly. Then go on to calling out the next sound. It provides the children with the necessary practice, as well as enabling the teacher to see who still does not know how to write the letters.
- When most of the children can hear the sounds in words e.g. dog is made up of a d-o-g, start dictating simple, regular words. Examples can be found in the 'Homework Writing Sheets' section in The Phonics Handbook, or in the Jolly Phonics Word Book. Many parents like to help their children, and these children can be given dictation homework, so long as they are able to hear the sounds in words and can write the letters.
- Teach the children to read and spell the first ten 'tricky words'.
- Now the children are ready to start writing sentences that contain those ten 'tricky words' and regular words that can be written by listening for the sounds in the words e.g. I sat on the bench. (by this time the children should have been taught the 42 letter sounds. Only these are used in the following sentences).
- These dictation sentences are split into groups of three sentences. If you are giving homework to a child, cut a group of three sentences off the sheet and put it into an exercise book, with wide lines if available, and ask the parents to call the sentences out. They should not let their child see the sentences and copy them. It is a good idea to encourage the parents to leave the mistakes so you can see where there might be problems.
- Sentences using the next tricky words follow on from the first group, once tricky words 11-20 have been taught.

**Dictation sentences - using tricky words 1 -10 and regular words.**

1. I went to the bus stop.
2. He can do it soon.
3. It ran up the bank.

1. The man is hot.
2. It was in the nest.
3. I went to camp.

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1. He is on the step.
2. She can sing.
3. We sat on the bench.

1. I was in the tent.
2. It is soft.
3. The pig is pink.

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1. I was in the shed.
2. It is fun.
3. We had fish and chips.

1. It is a long string.
2. Bring it to me.
3. He got his lunch.

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1. It is good.
2. She went out in the rain.
3. I can do it.

1. It is grand.
2. I went to sleep.
3. Drink this.

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1. It was big.
2. He hit the nut.
3. The cat bit the dog.

1. He held the flag.
2. She was in the lift.
3. I slept in a bunk bed.

**Dictation sentences - using tricky words 1 -10 and regular words.**

1. We must get a dog.
2. I am good.
3. She had hot milk to drink.

1. An ant is not big.
2. The cup is in the sink.
3. I hit the rat.

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1. It was a hot brush.
2. The hen is red.
3. She can do it.

1. The spring is strong.
2. We went to the farm.
3. I swim in the big pool.

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1. He ran to the camp.
2. This was his fish.
3. He is next on the list.

1. The zoo is shut.
2. Was he in the shed?
3. I went to the shops.

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1. Do frogs jump?
2. We went to the sand pit.
3. She stood on the bench.

1. His lunch was hot.
2. I quit from the quiz.
3. It was a long plank.

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1. The moth is pink.
2. He held it in his hand.
3. I went on the swing.

1. It was in the nest.
2. She went to the tent.
3. He lost the ring.

### Dictation sentences - using tricky words 1 - 20

1. You are all good.

1. She was here.

2. Can I come?
3. Your dog bit me.

2. They ran up the steps.
3. Some jobs are hard.

- .....
1. They are hot.
  2. You can all do it.
  3. We said it was good.

1. There are some crabs.
2. Get some jam.
3. Can they do it?

- .....
1. She was here.
  2. It all looks bad to me.
  3. Your cat jumps on the mat.

1. The flag is there.
2. His boots are here.
3. I can brush the bench.

- .....
1. They are on the ship.
  2. There is the quilt.
  3. Your dish is hot.

1. You must chop them up.
2. Here is some string.
3. We said it was bad.

- .....
1. You must do it all.
  2. They are all here.
  3. Do you help them?

1. Come in the morning.
2. She spent it all.
3. Are they all in the hut?

### Dictation sentences - using tricky words 1 - 20

1. Can you get here soon?
2. He said she must be here soon.

1. Are you all here?
2. Your gift is the best.

3. There was a big flash.

3. They went on the train.

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1. They said it was good.

1. Your car had a crash.

2. He can come in the wigwam.

2. It was all junk.

3. They must come here.

3. Is it all here?

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1. Can you come?

1. All the frogs are hot.

2. He said you are good  
at singing.

2. Your dad is here.

3. Here are all the planks.

3. Look in your book.

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1. Your song is next.

1. Can you mend it?

2. I think they are there.

2. Your mum has some  
sweets for us all.

3. Here are the crisps.

3. They all slept here.

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1. He said he was in a rush.

1. They had a crash.

2. Are you on the bench?

2. Your bus has come.

3. Do they help you?

3. Here is your vest.

**Dictation sentences - using tricky words 1- 30 and regular words.**

1. You can live here.

1. My dog is here.

2. They like him.

2. They have to live here.

3. We can come by bus.

3. You can all go.

1. They have one lamp.

1. We like chips.

2. My tent is strong.

2. They are so good.

3. We have to do it soon.

3. We have said it all.

1. They live in a hut.

1. I like my fish.

2. One plum is red.

2. They have run to get here.

3. It is so hot here.

3. They give me help.

1. He can come by car.

1. I had one drink.

2. They live in a van.

2. They have some junk.

3. We have to go to the zoo soon.

3. It ran like an ant.

1. My boat sank.

1. My pen is sharp.

2. One dart hit the lamp.

2. They said it was smart.

3. They like to cook.

3. Go one by one into the shop.

**Dictation sentences - using tricky words 1- 30 and regular words.**

1. Get a sharp one for me.

1. They went by bus.

2. So you can go to the farm.

2. They like to live there.

3. Some cats go on the bed.

3. We like to have a nap.

1. One dog bit his shin.

1. My dad went on a ship.

2. Do you all like it?

2. Go in one by one.

3. Give it to me.

3. I like my one best.

1. It was so good.

1. Have you sunk it yet?

2. Our pot is red and green.

2. I think one man can

3. This crust is hard on  
my teeth.

come this week.

3. They have ten cats.

1. They can live in my flat.

1. It is so long.

2. I have to boil the sheets.

2. They like my song.

3. They have long legs.

3. Give him some crisps.

1. Do you like my car?

1. I have lost my dog.

2. Give that one to the cook.

2. We like to live here.

3. They have left my darts  
at the club.

3. My mum said no.