

# Word Attack Skills Test

## Beginning and Immediate Levels

### Rationale

The Word Attack Skills test is an assessment of a student's ability to correctly sound out letters and/or words to determine specific phonics elements the student may be struggling with. Once the initial assessment is conducted, the student is retested on both words he/she missed and additional words that have similar skill components (CCVC, th, -er, ea, oo, etc.). This follow-up assessment allows one to confirm whether a student has difficulty decoding words that contain a particular phonics element. Increased instruction in specific areas of difficulty can then be designed and implemented.

### Materials

- Word Attack Skills Test: Beginning (K-1 or 2) or Intermediate Levels (2+)
- Word lists (for the re-testing)

### Steps

1. Conduct the appropriate Word Attack Skills Test (Beginning or Immediate).
2. If the student correctly identifies a letter sound or word, mark a plus sign (+) in the blank. If the student gets an item incorrect, write exactly what the student said.
3. Continue testing until the student misses 4 consecutive items (although professional judgment may be used as to when it is appropriate to discontinue the test).
4. Develop *Retest* pages (both student and examiner copies) by writing down the letters or words that the student got wrong. For incorrect letter sounds, retest by writing both target letters and review letters (sounds said accurately on a consistent basis) on the *Letter Sounds Retest* sheets. Please provide multiple examples (e.g., 4) of the target letters. For incorrect words, retest by writing the target word, and at least three more examples of words that contain the same phonics element (e.g., ship, shop, shut, shed), on the *Regular Words Retest* sheets (examiner and student copies). Two copies are necessary because you need one to show the student and one to record the student's responses.
5. Retest and then use the results to design an intervention plan related to the phonics elements that were particularly challenging for the student.

### Reference

Carnine, D. W., Silbert, J., & Kameenui, E. J. (1997). *Direct Instruction Reading, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

## Examiner Record Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#	Item	Response	#	Item	Response
<b>Small Letter Sounds (Say: <i>What sound?</i>)</b>			<b>Capital Letter Sounds (Say: <i>What sound?</i>)</b>		
1	a		27	D	
2	m		28	A	
3	t		29	R	
4	s		30	H	
5	i		31	G	
6	f		32	B	
7	d		33	E	
8	r		34	Q	
9	o		<b>Regular Words (Say: <i>What word?</i>)</b>		
10	g		35	it	
11	l		36	am	
12	h		37	if	
13	u		38	sam	
14	c		39	mad	
15	b		40	cat	
16	n		41	him	
17	k		42	hot	
18	e		43	tag	
19	v		44	must	
20	p		45	hand	
21	y		46	flag	
22	j		47	drop	
23	x		48	strap	
24	w		49	skunk	
25	q				
26	z				

Note: Record + if the item is correct; record what the student says if the item is incorrect. If a letter name is stated say, *Yes that is the letter name...but what sound does it make.*

Word Attack Skills Test – Beginning Level  
Student Copy

**Small Letter Sounds**

**a m t s i**

**f d r o g**

**l h u c b**

**n k e v p**

**y j x w q**

**z**

## Capital Letter Sounds

D

A

R

H

G

B

E

Q

## Regular Words

it

am

if

sam

mad

cat

him

hot

tag

must

hand

flag

drop

strap

skunk

**Word Attack Skills Test – Beginning Level**  
**Examiner Record Form – Letter Sounds Retest**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#	Item	Response	#	Item	Response
Letter Sounds (Say: <i>What sound?</i> )			Letter Sounds (Say: <i>What sound?</i> )		
1			27		
2			28		
3			29		
4			30		
5			31		
6			32		
7			33		
8			34		
9			35		
10			36		
11			37		
12			38		
13			39		
14			40		
15			41		
16			42		
17			43		
18			44		
19			45		
20			46		
21			47		
22			48		
23			<b>Notes:</b>		
24					
25					
26					

Note: Write the target sounds (at least 4 examples of each one) and the review sounds in the "item" columns. Score a + for a correct response; and, write exactly what the students says if the response is incorrect.



**Word Attack Skills Test – Beginning Level**  
**Examiner Record Form – Regular Words *Retest***

#	Target Word Response	Item 1 Response	Item 2 Response	Item 3 Response
1	it			
2	am			
3	if			
4	sam			
5	mad			
6	cat			
7	him			
8	hot			
9	tag			
10	must			
11	hand			
12	flag			
13	drop			
14	strap			
15	skunk			

Note: Write additional words in the "item" columns. Score each response in the cell directly under the targeted word. Score a + for a correct response; and, write exactly what the students says if the response is incorrect.

**Word Attack Skills Test – Beginning Level**  
**Student Copy – Regular Words Retest**

<b>Target</b>	<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Item 3</b>
<b>it</b>			
<b>am</b>			
<b>if</b>			
<b>sam</b>			
<b>mad</b>			
<b>cat</b>			
<b>him</b>			
<b>hot</b>			
<b>tag</b>			
<b>must</b>			
<b>hand</b>			



<b>Target</b>	<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Item 3</b>
<b>flag</b>			
<b>drop</b>			
<b>strap</b>			
<b>skunk</b>			

**Word Attack Skills Test – Intermediate Level**  
**Examiner Record Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#	Item	Response	#	Item	Response
<b>Section I</b> (Say: <i>What word?</i> )			21b	funniest (y)	
			21c	cried (y)	
1	bath (th)		22	pray (ay)	
2	matter (er)		23	proud (ou)	
3	handing (ing)		24	thirst (ir)	
4	shop (sh)		25	curb (ur)	
5a	handed (ed)		26a	taped (Vce)	
5b	licked (ed)		26b	hoping (Vce)	
5c	hopped (ed)		26c	timer (Vce)	
6	when (wh)		27	knock (kn)	
7	quiz (qu)		28	boil (oi)	
8	fold (ol)		29	enjoy (oy)	
9	sunny (y)		30	graph (ph)	
10	biggest (est)		31	wrap (wr)	
11	loan (oa)		32	haunt (au)	
12	cart (ar)		33	hawk (aw)	
13a	fine (Vce)		<b>Section III</b>		
13b	hope (Vce)		34	confuse (con)	
13c	cane (Vce)		35	payment (ment)	
<b>Section II</b>			36	sixteen (teen)	
14	neat (ea)		37	handful (ful)	
15	toot (oo)		38	distant (dis)	
16	candle (le)		39	enjoyable (able)	
17	meet (ee)		40	useless (less)	
18	pain (ai)		41	darkness (ness)	
19	lunch (ch)		42	invention (tion)	
20	port (or)		43	artist (ist)	
21a	happier (y)		44	sensible (ible)	

Note: Record + if the item is correct; record what the student says if the item is incorrect.

#	Item	Response	#	Item	Response
<b>Section III contd.</b> (Say: <i>What word?</i> )			<b>Additional Items</b> (Say: <i>What word?</i> )		
45	package (age)				
46	mission (sion)				
47	sentence (ence)				
48	selfish(ish)				
49	vacation (ation)				
50	preschool (pre)				
51	expect (ex)				
52	overtime (over)				
53	million (ion)				
54	friendship (ship)				
55	compare (com)				
56	adventure (ure)				
57	detective (ive)				
58	accuse (ac)				
59	joyous (ous)				
60	interfere (inter)				
61	forward (for)				
62	realize (ize)				
<b>Notes:</b>					

Note: Record + if the item is correct; record what the student says if the item is incorrect.

**Word Attack Skills Test**  
**Intermediate Level**  
**Student Copy**

**Section I**

bath

matter

handing

shop

handed

licked

hopped

when

quiz

fold

sunny

biggest

loan

cart

fine

hope

cane

## Section II

neat

toot

candle

meet

pain

lunch

port

happier

funniest

cried

pray

proud

thirst

curb

taped

hoping

timer

knock

boil

enjoy

graph

wrap

haunt

hawk

### Section III

confuse

payment

sixteen

handful

distant

enjoyable

useless

darkness

invention

artist

sensible

package

mission

sentence

selfish

vacation

preschool

expect

overtime

million

friendship

compare

adventure

detective

accuse

joyous

interfere

forward

realize

**Word Attack Skills Test – Intermediate Level**  
**Examiner Record Form – Section I Retest**

#	Target Word Response	Item 1 Response	Item 2 Response	Item 3 Response
1	bath			
2	matter			
3	handing			
4	shop			
5a	handed			
5b	licked			
5c	hopped			
6	when			
7	quiz			
8	old			
9	sunny			
10	biggest			
11	loan			
12	cart			
13a	fine			
13b	hope			
13c	cane			

**Note:** Write additional words in the "item" columns. Score each response in the cell directly under the targeted word. Score a + for a correct response; and, write exactly what the students says if the response is incorrect.

**Word Attack Skills Test – Intermediate Level**  
**Examiner Record Form – Section II Retest**

#	Target Word Response	Item 1 Response	Item 2 Response	Item 3 Response
14	neat			
15	toot			
16	candle			
17	meet			
18	pain			
19	lunch			
20	port			
21a	happier			
21b	funniest			
21c	cried			
22	pray			
23	proud			
24	thirst			
25	curb			
26a	taped			
26b	hoping			
26c	timer			

**Note:** Write additional words in the "item" columns. Score each response in the cell directly under the targeted word. Score a + for a correct response; and, write exactly what the students says if the response is incorrect.



**Section II Retest contd.**

#	Target Word Response	Item 1 Response	Item 2 Response	Item 3 Response
27	knock			
28	boil			
29	enjoy			
30	graph			
31	wrap			
32	haunt			
33	hawk			

Note: Write additional words in the "item" columns. Score each response in the cell directly under the targeted word. Score a + for a correct response; and, write exactly what the students says if the response is incorrect.

**Word Attack Skills Test – Intermediate Level**  
**Examiner Record Form – Section III Retest**

#	Target Word Response	Item 1 Response	Item 2 Response	Item 3 Response
34	confuse			
35	payment			
36	sixteen			
37	handful			
38	distant			
39	enjoyable			
40	useless			
41	darkness			
42	invention			
43	artist			
44	sensible			
45	package			
46	mission			
47	sentence			
48	selfish			
49	vacation			
50	preschool			

**Note:** Write additional words in the “item” columns. Score each response in the cell directly under the targeted word. Score a + for a correct response; and, write exactly what the students says if the response is incorrect.

**Section III Retest contd.**

#	Target Word Response	Item 1 Response	Item 2 Response	Item 3 Response
51	expect			
52	overtime			
53	million			
54	friendship			
55	compare			
56	adventure			
57	detective			
58	accuse			
59	joyous			
60	interfere			
61	forward			
62	realize			

Note: Write additional words in the "item" columns. Score each response in the cell directly under the targeted word. Score a + for a correct response; and, write exactly what the students says if the response is incorrect.

**Word Attack Skills Test – Intermediate Level**  
**Student Copy – Section I Retest**

<b>Target</b>	<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Item 3</b>
<b>bath</b>			
<b>matter</b>			
<b>handing</b>			
<b>shop</b>			
<b>handed</b>			
<b>licked</b>			
<b>hopped</b>			
<b>when</b>			
<b>quiz</b>			
<b>fold</b>			
<b>sunny</b>			

*Section 1 Retest contd.*

<b>Target</b>	<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Item 3</b>
<b>biggest</b>			
<b>loan</b>			
<b>cart</b>			
<b>fine</b>			
<b>hope</b>			
<b>cane</b>			

Word Attack Skills Test – Intermediate Level  
Student Copy – Section II Retest

Target	Item 1	Item 2	Item 3
neat			
toot			
candle			
meet			
pain			
lunch			
port			
happier			
funniest			
cried			
pray			

*Section II Retest contd.*

<b>Target</b>	<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Item 3</b>
<b>proud</b>			
<b>thirst</b>			
<b>curb</b>			
<b>taped</b>			
<b>hoping</b>			
<b>timer</b>			
<b>knock</b>			
<b>boil</b>			
<b>enjoy</b>			
<b>graph</b>			
<b>wrap</b>			

**Section II Retest contd.**

<b>Target</b>	<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Item 3</b>
<b>haunt</b>			
<b>hawk</b>			



Word Attack Skills Test – Intermediate Level  
Student Copy – Section III Retest

Target	Item 1	Item 2	Item 3
<b>confuse</b>			
<b>payment</b>			
<b>sixteen</b>			
<b>handful</b>			
<b>distant</b>			
<b>enjoyable</b>			
<b>useless</b>			
<b>darkness</b>			
<b>invention</b>			
<b>artist</b>			
<b>sensible</b>			

*Section III Retest contd.*

<b>Target</b>	<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Item 3</b>
<b>package</b>			
<b>mission</b>			
<b>sentence</b>			
<b>selfish</b>			
<b>vacation</b>			
<b>preschool</b>			
<b>expect</b>			
<b>overtime</b>			
<b>million</b>			
<b>friendship</b>			
<b>compare</b>			

*Section III Retest contd.*

<b>Target</b>	<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Item 3</b>
<b>adventure</b>			
<b>detective</b>			
<b>accuse</b>			
<b>joyous</b>			
<b>interfere</b>			
<b>forward</b>			
<b>realize</b>			