

THE BLUMENFELD-POTTER PHONICS TEST

OF WORD DECODING ABILITY

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THE BLUMENFELD-POTTER PHONICS TEST

The purpose of the *Blumenfeld-Potter Phonics Test* (BPPT) is to enable the tester to determine the student's ability to decode single words based on the sequence in *Blumenfeld Alpha-Phonics*.

The 23 columns test the student knowledge of the English alphabetic system in its entire range of vowel and consonant spelling forms. This knowledge is generally known as "basic decoding skills" Columns 24 to 26 test more advanced decoding skills.

This is a phonics test only. It does not test comprehension. The tester can get some idea about the student's ability to comprehend by asking him or her to use the word they have just decoded in an oral sentence.

Testing Instructions

The test can be given to anyone – from kindergarten to an adult. The test will inform the tester on how far along the child, teenager, or adult is in mastering the English alphabetic system.

Because this is an oral test, it can only be given to one person at a time. It should be given privately in a room or office where others cannot hear or interrupt. If the test is given at home, a kitchen or dining room table and two chairs would provide a comfortable setting. The student and tester should be close enough so that the tester can hear the student without difficulty and the student can read in a normal speaking voice.

First, the student fills out the information at the top of the tester's copy. When completed, the student hands the marking copy to the tester. The tester then gives the student the reading copy and instructs the student to read the words down each column in regular sequence when told to begin. The student should be told to read for accuracy, not for speed, and to pronounce each word clearly and distinctly.

When the student begins reading, the tester listens carefully, following the words as they are read, putting a check only next to those word read incorrectly. Any derivation from the correct pronunciation of the word must be marked as an error. However, if the student first mispronounces a word or misreads it but immediately corrects himself, this should not be marked as an error. If you've already made a check mark, simply put a slash through the check to indicate an immediate self-correction. Under no circumstance should the tester in any way assist the student in reading the words. It is a good idea to write the misreading next to the misread word to get an idea of the kinds of errors the student is making.

Typical errors include gross misreadings, wrong vowel pronunciation, inability to read the word at all, wrong guessing.

Interpreting the Scores

Stop the test when the student misses half or more of the words in a column. By referring to the Collation Chart, the tester can determine which Steps in the Scope and Sequence the student has mastered and which Steps remain to be mastered. Reading achievement can largely be measured in terms of decoding mastery.

The *Phonics-Potter Phonics Test* is available in two versions (A & B) so that the students can be retested at a later date after tutorial or remedial help. The format of the test is the same, but the words are different, thereby permitting the tester to measure progress made by the student.

This is a Criterion Reference Test, not a Normed Reference Test. It tests the student's ability to decode words with reference to the specific "Scope and Sequence" of *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics*.

Evaluating Home Schoolers

The BPPT provides home-schooling parents a very easy and quick means of evaluating their children's decoding ability.

History of the Test

Samuel L. Blumenfeld published his BORAT (*Blumenfeld Oral Reading Assessment*) in 1991. It was based on a twofold approach to evaluating reading ability. The **first half** tested a student's *criterion reference test* of basic and advanced decoding ability (Columns 1 to 26). The **second half** of the test was a *normed reference test* to determine a student's grade level reading ability (Columns 27-38).

The *Blumenfeld-Potter Phonics Test* is based on the first 26 columns of the BORAT. The BPPT is a *criterion reference test* to determine a student's ability to decode English words based on the phonics sequence in *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics*.

Dr. Blumenfeld passed away in 2015. Mr. Potter decided to retool the BORAT for the purposes of determining a student's progress in decoding English words. It can also serve as a placement tool. The normed reference section was deleted because it was not germane to Mr. Potter's tutoring with *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics*. The criterion reference section was reordered and slightly modified to fit the sequence of *Blumenfeld Alpha-Phonics*.

Mr. Blumenfeld was Mr. Potter's mentor from 1994 (when Mr. Potter began teaching *Alpha-Phonics*) to his death in 2015.

Here is the link to Mr. Potter's *Samuel L. Blumenfeld Reading Clinic* web page.

http://donpotter.net/reading_clinic.html

The Blumenfeld-Potter Phonics Test- A

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Date _____ School _____

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
mad	dab	fam	this	napkin	kept	blab
yen	vex	hap	which	gallon	fact	brag
bit	dim	dex	cap	chapel	test	clap
hog	fog	seg	shed	kidnap	disk	cram
mum	cub	dib	much	vivid	milk	drip
nap	jam	min	chick	pencil	help	flap
let	yet	jod	rash	mimic	belt	fret
rib	fig	mov	that	vanish	bump	glad
top	cop	lub	when	cactus	badge	plus
dug	cut	sut	ash	pencil	fence	snag
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
trump	make	ball	car	leak	time	joke
blimp	paid	yawn	sharp	shield	like	boat
clump	wait	fault	spark	she	sight	soap
crimp	game	raw	charm	dream	size	row
flank	eight	cause	chart	weep	fire	cold
frisk	say	talk	charge	seat	cry	nose
grand	jail	haunt	farce	mean	dice	hope
plump	cage	crawl	card	treat	shy	phone
prompt	weigh	call	large	seed	high	slow
slump	fade	caught	arch	brief	price	dome

The Blumenfeld Potter Phonics Test- A

15	16	17	18	19	20
good	out	Joyce	tune	who	serve
wood	now	toy	fun	eye	term
should	house	boil	huge	your	girl
pool	count	coin	crude	where	shirt
too	brown	void	new	young	thirst
room	once	boy	blue	pull	nurse
book	ground	moist	chew	door	earn
could	crowd	troy	juice	enough	earth
crook	owl	foil	zoo	sew	worn
nook	our	join	spoon	touch	burn
21	22	23	24	25	26
able	Phillip	nation	national	promptly	scheme
fiddle	phony	action	consumption	begrudge	chorus
cattle	phrase	patient	imagine	slothful	chemist
struggle	physics	mission	tyranny	tactless	school
single	graphic	special	possible	luncheon	Christmas
fumble	photo	capture	difference	witchcraft	psychic
stifle	rough	question	judicious	chopstick	myth
wriggle	cough	fusion	represent	swiftly	system
strangle	laugh	leisure	incident	cascade	syntax
turtle	draught	tissue	consonant	spaceship	syrup

The Blumenfeld-Potter Phonics Test- B

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Date _____ School _____

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
fad	fad	maf	thin	tidbit	next	brush
yet	wax	hab	which	ribbon	mint	clip
lit	bib	yex	champ	tablet	dunk	crash
bog	gut	beb	shin	picnic	munch	drudge
sum	cup	teg	when	civil	wept	brag
pan	jell	hin	chat	within	sift	flash
men	yam	jub	dash	liquid	pact	brash
dim	fog	niv	this	blemish	task	splash
hop	cob	lut	what	mascot	mast	stub
mug	hut	suz	fresh	lentil	pump	trek
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
thrust	bake	call	far	peak	dime	poke
twitch	maid	dawn	harp	shield	bike	coat
branch	gait	fault	stark	we	light	soar
strength	tame	clause	shard	cream	prize	crow
graft	weight	jaw	carp	seep	hire	fold
crept	day	balk	charge	bleat	fry	pose
blast	fail	daunt	farce	clean	nice	rope
craft	page	crawl	lard	feat	sky	moan
front	vein	fall	barge	deed	thigh	grow
clump	wade	fraught	arch	chief	thrice	home

The Blumenfeld-Potter Phonics Test- B

15	16	17	18	19	20
mood	pout	Royce	dune	whom	nerve
hood	how	coy	muse	eye	germ
would	douse	foil	huge	your	girl
cook	mount	loin	rude	were	burst
shook	crown	voice	few	youngster	flirt
broom	bounce	joy	true	bull	purse
cook	found	foist	shrew	floors	learn
could	crowd	ploy	sluice	enough	earth
zoom	fowl	coil	goof	two	worth
hook	hour	toy	croon	only	turn
21	22	23	24	25	26
fable	Phyllis	station	national	spendthrift	schedule
riddle	phone	faction	consumption	slingshot	choral
bottle	phase	patience	imagine	crankcase	chemical
straggle	physical	fission	tyranny	dustpan	scholar
mingle	graphite	facial	possible	flagpoles	Christian
stumbler	phosphate	rapture	difference	crispness	psychotic
trifle	tough	bastion	judicious	grandstand	mythical
wriggle	cough	pleasure	represent	spotless	symphony
wrangle	laughter	lesion	incident	hamstring	systemic
hurtle	draught	issue	consonant	platelet	character

Collation of Blumenfeld-Potter Phonics Test and Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics

Prepared by Donald L. Potter
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This collation will explain how the *Blumenfeld-Potter Phonics Test* (BPPT) follows the scope and sequence of *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics*.

The test is an assessment of the student's knowledge of the English alphabetic system in its entire range of vowel and consonant spelling forms. This knowledge is generally known as "basic decoding skills."

I. Basic Decoding Skills as Taught in *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics*

Columns

Phonetic Elements Tested

1. Short vowels: Lessons 1 - 28
2. Short vowels: Lessons 1 - 28
3. Short Vowels: Nonsense Syllables: Lesson 1 - 28
4. Consonant Digraphs: Lessons 29 - 37
5. Two-Syllable Short Vowel words: Lessons 38 - 39
6. Consonant Blends: Ending Blends: Lesson 40 - 56
7. Consonant Blends: Beginning Blends: Lessons 58 - 71
8. Consonant Blends: Beginning and Ending Blends: Lesson 58 - 71
9. Long ā: Lessons 72 - 82
10. au, aw: Lessons 83 - 84
11. ar: Lessons 85 - 86
12. Long ā: Lessons 87 -97
13. Long ī: Lessons 98 - 100
14. Long ō: Lessons 101 - 107
15. Long and Short oo & oo as in door: Lessons 108 – 110
16. ou, ow: Lessons 111 - 113
17. oy, oi: Lesson 114
18. Long ū: Lessons 115 -117
19. Mixed Irregular Words taught in previous lessons
20. /ūr/: er/ir/ur/wor: Lessons 118 - 118
21. Ending -le: Lesson 119
22. /f/ as ph & gh: Lesson 120
23. /sh/ as ti, si, su: Lesson 121

II. Advanced Decoding Skills as Taught in *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics*

24. Two-syllable words: Lesson 121
25. Two-syllable words: Decodable Words using variety of already taught skills.
26. Three-syllable words: Lesson 128

BLUMENFELD'S ALPHA-PHONICS

Ten Steps to Reading Success

<u>Step</u>	<u>Lessons</u>	<u>Skills</u>
Step 1	Lessons 1 – 14	Short Ää, Mm, Nn, Ss, Tt, Xx, Dd, Ww, Ll, Bb, Cc, Gg, Ff, Jj, Ll, Nn, Pp, Rr, Tt, Vv, Yy, Zz, ck, qu.
Step 2	Lessons 15 – 28	Short vowels: ě, ĭ, ō, ŭ; Consonant Digraphs: ph, th
Step 3	Lessons 29 – 37	Consonant Digraphs: sh, ch, wh. Verbs: to be, to have, contractions
Step 4	Lessons 38 – 39	Two-syllable short vowel words
Step 5	Lessons 40 – 49	all, Consonant Blends: ng, ing, Final Consonant blends: nd, nt, (er), nk, nc, nch, ct, ft, pt, xt, sk, sp, st.
Step 6	Lessons 50 – 71	Final Consonant Blends: lb, ld, lf, lk, lm, lt, mp, tch, dge, nce, nse, Two-syllable words with consonant blends. Initial Consonant Blends: bl, br, cl, cr, dr, dw, fl, fr, gl, fr, gw, bl, br, sl, shr, sm, sn, sp, spr, st, str, sw, sc, sk, scr, tr, thr, tw.
Step 7	Lessons 72 – 86	Long ā Vowel Spellings: ā-e, ai, ay/ey, ei, eigh, au/aw, är
Step 8	Lessons 87 – 100	Long ē Vowel Spellings: ee, ēa, [ěa, eā], e-e, ie, --y; Long ī Vowel: I, -y, uy, igh
Step 9	Lessons 101 – 117	ough, augh, gh=f, Long ō Vowel Spellings: ō-e, ōe, ōw, ōld, ōst. –o, ōō, ōō, ōo, ould, ou/ow, ouch, oy/oi, Long ū Vowel: ū-e, ūi, ūe, ew, eu.
Step 10	Lessons 118 – 128	er, ir, or, ur, ear, le, Silent t, ph=f, ti=sh, ssi, ci, ce = sh, ci, sci, xi = su, ssu = sh, si, su = zh, ti tu = ch, kn =n, mb = m, bt = t, Silent h, wr = r, st = s, ft = f, ch = k, ps – s, y = short ĭ

The *First Readers* and **Steps** have the same number.

Correlation Between the BPPT
and the 10 Steps of the *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics*
Intensive Phonics Program

Step	Lesson	Skill	Column
1	1 - 14	Short Ää, Mm, Nn, Ss, Tt, Xx, Dd, Ww, Ll, Bb, Cc, Gg, Ff, Jj, Ll, Nn, Pp, Rr, Tt, Vv, Yy, Zz, ck, qu.	1 - 3
2	15 - 28	Short vowels: ě, ĭ, ō, ŭ; Consonant Digraphs: ph, th	1 - 3
3	29 -37	Consonant Digraphs: sh, ch, wh. Verbs: to be, to have, contractions	4
4	38 - 39	Two-syllable short vowel words	5
5	40 - 49	all, ng, ing, Final Consonant Blends: nd, nt, (er), nk, nc, nch, ct, ft, pt, xt, sk, sp, st.	6
6a	50 - 71	Initial Consonant Blends: bl, br, cl, cr, dr, dw, fl, fr, gl, fr, gw, bl, br, sl, shr, sm, sn, sp, spr, st, str, sw, sc, sk, scr, tr, thr, tw.	7
6b		Beginning & Ending Blends together	8
7a	72 - 82	Long ā vowel spellings: ā-e, ai, ay/ey, ei, eigh	9
7b	83 - 84	au/aw,	10
7c	85 - 86	är	11
8a	87 - 97	Long ē vowel spellings: ee, ēa, [ĉa, eā], e-e, ie, --y;	12
8b	98 - 100	Long ĭ vowel: I, -y, uy. igh	13
9a	101 - 107	ough, augh, gh=f, Long ō vowel spellings: ō-e, ōe, ōw, ōld, ōst. -o,	14
9b	108 - 110	ōō, ōō, ōo, ould,	15
9c	111 - 113	ou/ow, ouch,	16
9d	114	oy/oi,	17
9e	115 - 117	Long ū vowel: ū-e, ūi, ūe, ew, eu.	18
9f	Previous Lessons	Assortment of Irregular Words	19
10a	118	er, ir, or, ur, ear,	20
10b	119	-le	21
10c	120	ph=f, gh=f	22
10d	121	ti=sh, ssi, ci, ce = sh, ci, sci, xi = su, ssu = sh, si, su = zh, ti tu = ch, kn =n, mb = m, bt = t, Silent h, wr = r, st = s, ft = f	23
10e	121	Two-syllable words	24
10f	122 - 127	Decodable Words – all skills taught	25
10g	128	ch = k, ps – s, y = short ĭ	26

The 10 Steps correspond with the *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics First Readers* 1-10.