

# **The Natural Phonics Primer™ Stories & Practice Sentences**

Decodable Sentences and Stories  
for Natural Phonics Primer Students

Published by Donald Potter  
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[www.donpotter.net](http://www.donpotter.net)

## Step 1

The five short vowels and all consonants spelled by one letter.

Exercises 1-12

### Exercise 3, Review 1

*The Red Jet*

a, the, an, and

1. Let Dan get a red jet.
2. Let Dan get a big map.
3. Sell Dan a red jet, a big map, and gas.
4. Gas ran a big, red jet.
5. A big, red jet did pass a tan van.
6. The tan van ran well.
7. Dan ran the red jet.
8. Get Dan a fan and a pad.
9. Fan Dan well!
10. Tap a bell!
11. Yell less, Jan!
12. Dad, tell Dan the jet did jam.
13. Dan, nap well and get well.
14. Get a van.
15. Let Dan sell a red jet and a big map.

## Exercise 5, Review 2

### *The Hen and the Egg*

1. The big red hen is mad.
2. The egg is wet.
3. It fell in the well.
4. Tim went up the hill.
5. Tim had a big red bag.
6. In the bag, Tim had a hen and ten eggs.
7. The bad pig bit the bag.
8. The bag had a rip.
9. The hen ran, and the ten eggs fell.
10. Tim hit the bad pig.
11. The pig is sad

### *Jill's Doll*

1. Jill got a doll.
2. The doll had a red wig.
3. The fat dog bit the wig and it did rip.
4. Jill hit the dog and it is sad.

## Exercise 7, Review 3

### *Practice Sentences*

on

1. Tim is fat.
2. Tim, get in bed and nap.
3. The bed will sag.
4. Dan, sell the bad bed!
5. A big pig sat on a hill.
6. Pam and Sam pet the big pig.
7. The pig will nip Sam!
8. Sad Sam! Sam got a pet hen at the mill.
9. Well, well, a hen and a pig on the hill.
10. Sam set the hen on an egg.
11. Ned, fill the bin.
12. A rat hid in the bin.
13. Ann, get him!
14. Ann fell.
15. Dan, fan Ann.
16. The men will dig a well, a big well.

## Exercise 9, Review 4

### *The Cat and the Pup Nap*

Oh, was

1. Jan had a big muff.
2. The cat did nap on the muff.
3. The pup did fuss.
4. The pup had a nap on the rug.
5. Oh! He got mud on it.
6. Bad pup!

### *A Fat Pet*

1. Bill had a pet.
2. It ran up the hill.
3. It ran in the pen.
4. The pet was a pig.
5. The pet was big and fat.

### *Practice Sentences*

1. Rub-a-dub-dub, 3 men in a tub.
2. The van got hot on the hill.
3. Jim will get on the bus.
4. The doll has a nap in the doll bed.
5. Did Tim hit the net? Bad, Tim!

## Exercise 12, Review 5

### *Practice Sentences*

to, are

1. Ben and Ned are sick in bed.
2. Ann is sad.
3. Tim bit his lip and has a cut.
4. Ben, Tim, and Ned will get well.
5. Tell Ben to mop up the mess in the den.
6. It is jam on the mat.
7. A wet rag will do the job.

### *A Pet Duck*

1. Ben and Ned got a pet duck.
2. See the duck on the dock.
3. Oh, the duck is hit with a rock.
4. Ben and Ned run to the duck at the dock.
5. The rock hit the duck in the neck.
6. Ben and Ned run to get Dad.
7. Dad has a kit for the duck's cut in the neck.

### *A Job for Ben and Ned*

1. Dad has a job for Ben and Ned.
2. Get the moss off the dock.
3. Ben got a snack for the duck.
4. Ben and Ned dug and dug!
5. The moss is off the dock and in the sack.

## Step 2

Consonants and consonant combinations spelled with two or three letters. Exercises 13 – 23.

### Exercise 16, Review 6 *Practice Sentences*

are want of

1. Max has land he wants to sell.
2. On his land is a pond.
3. Ducks swim on the pond.
4. A rock is on the bank.
5. A fish is in the pond.
6. The cats hunt in the rocks.
7. Max is fond of fish.
8. Max will fix the cats fish in a dish.
9. Cats gulp fish and lap milk.
10. The king has cash in the bank.
11. He hands the cash to Max.
12. The king has the land.
13. On the land is a fox.
14. He hunts the ducks.
15. Jump, went the fox.
16. Swim, went the ducks.
17. The ducks swam and swam.
18. The fox sulks.
19. The king has on his hat.
20. He wants to hunt the fox.
21. Run, fox, run!

## Exercise 19: Review 7

### *Practice Sentences*

1. Fred's black truck has a strong strap on the bed.
2. The twins can swim and splash in the tub.
3. The flag can flop, flip, and flap in the wind.
4. Frank had hot shrimp with frog legs and crab.
5. I can snip a plant stem and snag a plum.
6. He can drink a grand swig of fresh hot milk.
7. The kids in the club can clap their hands
8. The chaps can click their fingers.
9. The black car had a crash at the crest of the slick hill.
10. Fresh milk in a glass is grand.
11. The brat did a bad trick.
12. The tramp sprang a trap.
13. Fred is prompt with his grin and his grip.
14. Max can crank the truck with a brisk press.
15. I can trust Frank to dress drab.
16. Fran has a bad cramp in the leg.
17. Bring the drum to the tent at six.
18. The tent is next to the shrub.
19. The ship was spick and span.
20. Scrub the cup with the brush.
21. The long stick is a twig off the big plant.
22. Fred can print on the brim of his red and black hat.



## Exercise 22: Review 8

### *Practice Sentences*

1. The frog jumps on the branch in the pond.
2. The frog is quick and will catch bugs.
3. Frank drank red punch in a big glass.
4. The duck will quack and swim in the pond.
5. Men fish in the pond.
6. The fox drinks in the pond.
7. Tom drinks milk in a cup.
8. Can the cat catch a chick in the nest?
9. The dress is red.
10. The chick fell in the ditch.
11. The chick can sing in the nest.
12. Mom mends Dan's socks.
13. Frank will scrub the dog.
14. Dick and Jack can skip.
15. Ann helps Mom, and Dick helps Dad.
16. Fred sat in the big red truck.
17. Jack will sit on the well and yell.
18. I wish I had six cats and ten ducks.
19. Six ducks sat on six nests and had six eggs.
20. A fish swims with his fins.

## Exercise 33, Review 9

### *Practice Sentences*

1. Fish and fowl are good to eat.
2. We need to preach and teach with zeal.
3. The queen treats Jean to sweet peas each year.
4. The cook took a look at the good food.
5. Mom darns the scarf with green wool yarn.
6. Paul is good.
7. Bert was first to get to church.
8. The boy stood in moist soil.
9. The scout is proud of our town.
10. Small Paul can crawl and bawl.
11. Roy found a shark at the beach.
12. I saw the small cloud.
13. The girl took a coin to church.
14. Jean can teach me how to read with speed.
15. The proud clown did shout for joy.
16. The clown can toot the horn.

## Exercises 38, Review 10

### *Practice Sentences*

1. Columbus had to wait in the rain for the sail to fill.
2. The Eskimos built a quaint railroad in the wild plains.
3. Cain ate oatmeal for breakfast everyday.
4. Jefferson sat on the dock of the bay watching the tide roll away.
5. The ship will sail out of the seaport with the old gold.
6. The crow annoys the coach in the cartoon.
7. Butterflies roam dry sky.
8. The blind child cried in the cold rain.
9. Cain had faith that the sail on the ship would not fail.
10. The old colt can go so fast in the cold snow!
11. The train can sway on the railroad track all the way all day.
12. The boat has great big oak oars.
13. The crew flew the blue jet in the blue sky.
14. The colt has a bad toe so it can't roam in the garden.
15. Get soap and soak the blue coat.
16. Jim blew the horn so hard that it was glowing in the dark.
17. The news is true.
18. Joe goes to town to get the tow truck.
19. Sue has a true gold ring.
20. The yellow dog can stroll in the quaint garden.
22. Bold Sam had a mind of his own.

## Step 4

The five long vowels. Exercises 40 - 59

### Exercise 43, Review 11

#### *Practice Sentences*

colors, pieces, bought, picture  
through, would, knows, have

1. Steve will hike along the trail.
2. The lame child can fly the kite.
3. Do not waste food.
4. Easter is on Sunday.
5. Mike is to share his rare snake with Pete.
6. The bellhop tried to find the handbag.
7. Mike would like to buy ice cream for a dime.
8. Colors will fade in the sunshine.
9. Let us dive into the lake.
10. Please don't let Pal whine.
11. The boy knows how to count to ten.
12. We saw the ship sailing to the bay.
13. They took a stroll through the park.
14. She lives in a quaint little house.
15. Mustard and hotdogs go together.
16. He bought a new frame for the picture.
17. He will have to share his book with you.
18. This piece of tape is too long.
19. You will have to ring another number.

## Exercise 45, Review 12

### *Practice Sentences*

they

1. Did you find the mate to your slipper?
2. The blades on your ice skates must be sharp.
3. The bride wore a long white dress.
4. Dave broke his arm when he fell out of the tree.
5. Will we dig up our garden with a spade?
6. We will not pick the grapes from the vine until they are ripe.
7. Don't choke on the apple seed.
8. What was your score on the spelling test?
9. I can hear the chimes in the church spire.
10. Jane's house has a slate roof.
11. Did you ever taste lime?
12. Let us rake the leaves.
13. The flames from the fire are hot.
14. Let us fill the hole with stones.

## Exercise 47, Review 13

### *Practice Sentences*

*won, from*

1. Luke ate the ripe prune.
2. The cute cub was safe in the cave.
3. In what state do you live?
4. Rube can use a dime to get a cupcake.
5. We will drive to the pine grove to see the new cabin.
6. Walt won a kite as a prize.
7. Mike got the cub, which ate the hamburger.
8. The kite came from the store.
9. The side of the tower was made of stone.

## Exercise 50, Review 14

### *Practice Sentences*

brought

1. May we go shopping?
2. Daddy found a penny.
3. Ponies are fun to ride.
4. The puppies were thirsty.
5. Mother bunny ate sixty berries.
6. The kitty scurried out the door.
8. Nearly all of the jury was prompt.
9. At the birthday party, we ate candy.
10. There was hardly anyone at the game.
11. Our new house is roomier than our old house.
12. Billy's plant will begin budding in the spring.
13. Betty was muddy because she was playing in the rain.
14. The ladies of the church brought thirty jars of jelly to the picnic.
14. For our Sunday dinner, we had steak, peas, mashed potatoes with gravy, tossed salad, milk, and cherry pie.

## Exercise 52, Review 15

### *Practice Sentences*

1. On a rainy day we passed the time sitting at home telling the silliest stories!
2. Betty liked whipping the cream.
3. She liked licking the beaters even better.
4. The scouts filled sixty empty boxes with things the Goodwill needed.
5. Funny little puppies went running happily this way and that.
6. A scrappy one trailed after Sally begging for candies.
7. The rain soaked us and our feet got very muddy.
8. We felt chilly, then stepped inside and wiped our feet.
9. We planned to stay in until the rain stopped.
10. The class planned to make jelly.
11. The girls did the stirring.
12. After it boiled, they filled empty jars.
13. The boys were happiest when licking the spoons.
14. Ladies wheeled buggies in the park.
15. Children skipped and played.
16. Old men seated lazily in the sun.



## Exercise 54, Review 16

### *Practice Sentences*

1. Katie will gladly fix noodles for supper.
2. Sandy and Peggy called us to go sledding.
3. The fussy baby settled down when I gave him a few crackers.
4. The preacher aided his church members in Bible study.
5. We spotted some berries growing near our cabin.
6. Luckily, they were not bitter so we ate them hungrily.
7. Puzzles and riddles are fun on a drizzly day.
8. My uncle hurt his ankle when he was tackled in a football game.
9. It has stopped thundering and is getting sunnier.
10. We jumped and shouted happily for the winners.
11. The puppies growled at the bunnies.
12. The boxer entered the ring when the buzzer sounded.
13. The coach gave the player pointers on kicking the ball.
14. I will gladly help you carry the tables and the dresser.
15. John suffered a crippling illness.
16. He is a sickly boy, but happily he can whittle fine things out of wood.

## Exercise 57, Review 17

### *Practice Sentences*

1. The danger of war ended with a pledge of peace.
2. The gypsy was standing at the fringe of the circle.
3. She gently nudged her way to the center.
4. The ball bounced off the edge of the ledge.
5. Nancy raced after the bouncing ball and pounced on it.
6. The Princess wore a fancy orange lace dress with one huge gem on it.
7. Grace and Nancy went to the circus.
8. A kind gentleman taught the skills of logic.
9. The officer's advice was not to take a chance.
10. The package sent to Marge held ginger snaps, a slice of cake, cabbage, rice, and some cooking gadgets.
11. The manager of the lodge began to pace and fidget in the office.
12. With an urgent voice, the midget raced down the passage.
13. The pencil left a smudge on the page.
14. A good citizen pledges himself to keep the law.

## Exercise 59, Review 18

### *Practice Sentences*

1. The passage speaks of mercy and grace.
2. Pause to notice this passage.
3. The gentleman preached of peace.
4. The officer wants our pledge for service.
5. The concert stage was in the center of the circle.
6. The roses in the vase will wither.
7. The judge charged the fidgety stranger for the damage.
8. Rice and cabbage were sold by grocers.
9. The rage of the storm did not damage the bridge
10. The wedge of the sledge went over the ledge.
11. The lacy ridge is forged by the bridge.
12. The wise mice took the cheese twice.
13. Bulging packages of pencils sat on the ledge.
14. Gene is a German who lives in France.
15. The officer did not excuse the gypsy.
16. Suppose the rose were gems.
17. One ounce cost ten cents.
18. The danger did not bother him.
19. Closing up the space was easy.
20. The glances at his badge did not amuse him.

## Step 5

Irregular spellings. Exercises 60-72

### Exercise 63, Review 19

#### *Practice Sentences*

1. Bob answered the ringing phone at eight o'clock.
2. James caught enough fish to feed his entire family.
3. Because the man tried to spend a phony dollar bill, he was sent to jail.
4. Since the orphan's shoes were too tight, the lady bought her a larger pair.
5. In triumph my nephew caught an eight-pound fish.
6. The cake recipe called for one egg yolk.
7. Our honest neighbor returned the photograph left in his mail by mistake.
8. We purchased syrup for Betty's cough at the pharmacy.
9. Because she was overweight, the doctor recommended physical exercise.
10. A bright student ought to learn the alphabet in kindergarten.
11. Mr. Smith's daughter looked through the book of Psalms.
12. Betty, my daughter, signed her autograph with her right hand.
13. Although the prime rib was tough, we ate it.
14. The pamphlet contained information about phonics.
15. Bill was given a trophy for showing his calf at the fair.
16. When Sue told the joke, the group erupted into laughter.
17. As mother surveyed the messy kitchen, she gave a big sigh.
18. At the appointed hour we received the phone call.
19. It took Bob an hour to groom his calf for the fair.
20. To reach your nephew's house drive straight ahead eight blocks and turn right at the first stop light.
21. If you have a cough, you ought to go to bed.

## Exercise 64, Review 20

### *Practice Sentences*

1. Rough Ralph taught the rather large prince.
2. These urgent citizens honor Alice.
3. Because he wrote the pamphlet, he was known by the officers.
4. Gnostics grudge those with spiritual insight.
5. The elephant made a fancy bow.
6. George brought the noise of laughter.
7. We sought the soothing, calm, old gentleman.
8. He could dodge the engine by bouncing over the hedge.
9. Naughty Bruce had a smidge on his knuckles.
10. Good reading habits ought to generate sound logic.
11. Alice bought a comb and a large parcel.
12. Please raise three fingers

## Exercise 68, Review 21

### *Practice Sentences*

1. “The swamp is dangerous,” Charlie warned.
2. Joy is a treasure peculiar to a believer.
3. Her cousin watched the boat touch the pier.
4. He fought to pull away from the clutch of the bear.
5. The watchman heard thieves wandering through the station.
6. The priest cheerfully told the watchman the signs of good health.
7. The young butcher has a leather suit.
8. Jack cheerfully swept the room.
9. June is jealous of Ann.
10. The country was warned of dangerous weather.
11. The religious man mentioned heaven on television.
12. The chipmunk had a mixture of nuts.
13. My young nieces believed the prairies are endless.
14. The thieves were warned of the punishment for robbery.
15. My cousins served pudding and brownies when the children were ready.

## Exercise 71, Review 22

### *Practice Sentences*

1. The new doctor mentioned the pleasures of enjoying a healthy life.
2. Correct performance in multiplication requires workmanship.
3. The bruised fruit, although juicy, was delicious.
4. The classes' expressions were sometimes serious.
5. Visitors were wasteful on their vacations.
6. Television is a pleasure, which can become tiresome.
7. American independence was written into our Constitution through our forefathers' decisions.
8. The janitor warned the curious children about eating the awful pudding.
9. The surroundings in my neighborhood are fashionable.
10. Pronunciation guides are practical if you want to communicate without difficulty.
11. Thanksgiving and Christmas are my favorite holidays.
12. The missionary told the patient the way of salvation.
13. The administrator, secretary, and librarian are important persons in a university.
14. People who are disagreeable, uncooperative and not trustworthy are poor companions.
15. Transportation is possible on the Mississippi.
16. To develop leadership, one must demonstrate responsibility.

17. In the United States government, the President is elected by the people.
18. The mysterious doctor translated a magnificent novel into the English vocabulary.
19. The Mississippi is a wonderful means of transportation.
20. The president demonstrated a spirit of patriotism on Independence Day.
21. The manufacturer gave attention to workmanship when judging the television sets.
22. The inspiration of the composer was demonstrated in his magnificent composition.



# Natural Phonics Primer™ Stories & Sentences

## *Student Progress Chart*

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

### **Step 1: The five short vowels and all consonants spelled by one letter: Exercises 1-12**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Exercise 3. Review 1: *The Red Jet*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Exercise 5. Review 2: *The Hen and the Egg*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Exercise 7. Review 3: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Exercise 9. Review 4: *The Cat and the Pup Nap. A Fat Pet. Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Exercise 12. Review 5: *Practice Sentences. A Pet Duck. A Job for Ben and Ned*

### **Step 2: Consonant and consonant combinations spelled with two or three letters. Exercises 13-23.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Exercise 16. Review 6: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Exercise 19. Review 7: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Exercise 22. Review 8: *Practice Sentences*

### **Step 3: Vowels and vowel combinations with two or three letters. Exercises 24 – 39.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Exercise 33. Review 9: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Exercise 38. Review 10: *Practice Sentences*

### **Step 4: The five long vowels: VCE. Exercises 40 – 59.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Exercise 43. Review 11: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Exercise 45. Review 12: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Exercise 47. Review 13: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Exercise 50. Review 14: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Exercise 52. Review 15: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Exercise 54. Review 16: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Exercise 57. Review 17: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Exercise 59. Review 18: *Practice Sentences*

### **Step 5: Irregular Spellings. Exercises 60 – 72.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Exercise 63. Review 19: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Exercise 64. Review 20: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Exercise 68. Review 21: *Practice Sentences*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. Exercise 71. Review 22: *Practice Sentences*

## Note from Internet Publisher: Donald L. Potter

February 8, 2014

I copied these sentences in 2004 from the 1970 *Victory Drill Book: A phonetic Approach to reading with an emphasis on speed* by August C. Enderlin III. There were no sentences in the VDB for Review 7 or 10. I wrote my own sentences for the Reviews that were missing sentences and added them to this document on 3/25/14.

Andrea Carstensen revised *The Victory Drill Book* in 2009. Deborah Masin wrote new stories to go with the phonics drills. The new book changed the phonics order a bit by putting the long-vowel VCE patterns before the long-vowel digraphs (vowel teams). For reasons I can't fathom, the new editor seems to think that this is a "natural order." I agree that it may be "customary."

The sentences and stories written for the 1970 edition will not work with the new edition because of the changes in the phonics sequence - putting VCE long vowels before long vowel digraphs.

The phonics sequence and words in the 1970 edition were taken directly, without alteration, from Rudolf Flesch's 1955 *Why Johnny Can't Read and what you can do about it*. I spoke with Mr. Enderlin on the phone years ago. He explained to me that his schools used Flesch until it went out of print for a short time. Since he could not purchase Flesch during that hiatus in the history of the publication of Flesch's book, he republished the exercises in a slightly altered format as *The Victory Drill Book*. The VDB organized Flesch's Exercises in groups of 100 words per page to make it easier to time the students.

The 1970 VDB Stories and Sentences work perfectly with the Exercises in Flesch's *Johnny* because of the near identity of the two programs. I used them with my *Natural Phonics Primer*<sup>™</sup>, which is a classroom adaptation of Flesch's program.

Flesch called his phonics drills, "Exercises." I like Flesch's terminology because it reflects the nature of the drills as Exercises to develop mental decoding strength and speed: automaticity - just like physical exercise develops the strength and flexibility of the human body.

Learn more about the *Victory Drill Book* at: <https://www.victorydrillbook.com>

Corrected 2/16/04. Decodable Sentences to go with Rudolf Flesch's 72 Exercises in his 1955 *Why Johnny Can't Read and what you can do about it*. Published by Donald L. Potter on the [www.donpotter.net](http://www.donpotter.net) website on February 12, 2014. Steps added on 2/21/14. Sentences numbers were added on 2/24/14. Last corrections 4/6/14. Mr. Potter wrote original sentences for Reviews 7 and 10 on March 25, 2015. Corrections to Progress Chart on 4/16/14.

I would like to note that I taught the *Natural Phonics Primer* and these Practice Sentences to 17 failing first graders in 2014, who ALL learned to read with me. I taught 2 students at a time for about ten to 15 minutes daily following Edward Miller's procedure of having the students and teacher take turns reading. I did not use fluency timings at that time.