High frequency sight words

## What are they?

Sight words are ones that cannot be easily sounded out and need to be recognised on sight.

High frequency words are ones that occur very often in writing.

Sight words can be any words once a student knows them. Think of some instantly recognisable words we see in advertising, those words have become sight words, but they may not be high frequency in print.

High frequency sight words can be described as the ‘glue’ that hold a sentence together, words like if, and, the. Most of these words are decodable, if you have been taught the code. But it takes time to learn all 44 phonemes. We don’t want to delay fluency, so we introduce students to words that will enable them to read continuous text. Reading fluently promotes comprehension.

## Why is it important?

It is acknowledged English is a fluid, evolving language, with new words emerging and morphing constantly, so it is impossible to learn every word as a sight word. When faced with a new word, such as an unusual name, or a novel brand title, we start decoding.

Fluent reading helps comprehension, the ultimate goal of reading - that’s why they’re important.

## Which list?

There are any number of word lists suggested, but it is important to know the words occur on all of them.