

TR Blend Word List

Tongue tip up for /t/, release, and pull straight back into the R shape. Like DR, a slight "ch" quality is completely normal.

SOUND

/tr/

TYPICAL AGE

By age 5-7

TYPE

Voiceless Stop + liquid cluster

PRACTICE TIP

Do not correct the natural "chr" sound in "train" - adults produce it that way too.

TR does not occur often in the middle or at the end of English words, so this page practices it at the beginning.

Initial Position (21 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.

1 Syllable

12 words

tree	try	trip	tray
train	trash	trunk	trick
truck	treat	trail	trap

2 Syllables

7 words

trophy	trumpet	traffic	treasure
trouble	tractor	travel	

3 Syllables

2 words

triangle	trampoline
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High-frequency initial words

Everyday words rather than picture-card words - which is why most lists leave them out. A child already says these hundreds of times a day, so they carry more carryover value than any noun above. Target them in conversation, not in drill.

trying, tried, tries

Generalization

Word lists get a sound into a child's mouth. Generalization is what gets it into their life. These are activities where the target words come up on their own, so nobody has to be talked into practicing.

Play-based ideas for young children

Train track

Build a track and run a train around it, stopping at stations.

Words that come up: train, track, truck, trip, travel, again, more, go, stop, my turn, fast, slow, crash, around

Truck loading

Load and dump cargo with a toy dump truck.

Words that come up: truck, trip, trash, tray, treat, again, more, load, dump, my turn, full, empty, go, big

Treasure trail

Follow a trail of clues to find a treat.

Words that come up: trail, treasure, treat, try, true, again, more, found, look, my turn, where, next, hot, cold

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

True or false

Make claims; the other person judges. "True" every round.

Travel trivia

Quiz each other on places. "Travel" and "trip" repeat.