

J Sound Word List

J is a /d/ and a ZH glued together. Stop the air with the tongue tip up behind the teeth, then release it into a voiced, lip-rounded buzz.

SOUND

/j/

TYPICAL AGE

By age 4

TYPE

Voiced Postalveolar affricate

PRACTICE TIP

Pair J with CH in minimal pairs (cheap/jeep, choke/joke) - same mouth, voice off versus voice on.

Initial Position (60 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.

1 Syllable

28 words

jump	gym	jade	jinx	junk
jar	judge	jaw	job	just
juice	join	jay	jog	gel
jeep	joke	jazz	jolt	gem
jam	June	jeans	joy	
jet	jack	jig	jug	

2 Syllables

24 words

jacket	July	jester	journal	jumble
giraffe	gentle	jewel	journey	jumbo
jelly	jigsaw	jiffy	joystick	jump rope
giant	jaguar	jingle	juggle	ginger
jungle	jeep ride	jolly	juicy	

3 Syllables

7 words

jewelry	jellyfish	gentleman	giraffe calf
janitor	generous	gingerbread	

4 Syllables

1 words

January

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.

jumped, jumping, jumps

Medial Position (43 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.

2 Syllables

21 words

magic	ranger	changes	fragile	pages
angel	banjo	dodgeball	gadget	
engine	pigeon	edges	hedges	
danger	bridges	enjoy	legend	
badger	badges	fidget	cages	

3 Syllables

17 words

pajamas	courageous	garbage truck	villager	teenager
vegetable	dangerous	magical	banjo string	
imagine	energy	passenger	engine room	
oranges	engineer	pigeon coop	magic wand	

4 Syllables

3 words

apologize	pajama top	vegetable soup
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5 Syllables

2 words

refrigerator	imagination
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High-frequency medial 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.

changes, changing

Final Position (41 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.

1 Syllable

27 words

bridge	large	barge	hinge	smudge
cage	fridge	bulge	ledge	stage
page	judge	charge	lodge	wedge
age	change	dodge	nudge	
edge	badge	fudge	plunge	
huge	sponge	hedge	ridge	

2 Syllables

14 words

orange	package	garbage	courage	voyage
village	language	baggage	porridge	cabbage
message	image	carriage	sausage	

High-frequency final 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.

change

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

Jumping game

Jump over a line, off a step, into a hoop. Announce each jump before it happens.

Words that come up: jump, jump up, giant, jet, jog, gym, juice, jelly, orange, bridge, cage, huge, edge, age

Juice and jelly snack

Pour juice and spread jam, naming each thing as you pass it - "juice", "jam", "more" - so the words are there to borrow.

Words that come up: juice, jelly, jam, jar, orange, jug, large, huge, giant, page, more, bridge, change, gentle

Jungle animals

Set up a jungle with toy animals. A giraffe and a jaguar do most of the work here.

Words that come up: jungle, jaguar, giraffe, giant, jump, jog, cage, large, huge, edge, danger, magic, page, bridge

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Job interview

Interview each other for a made-up job. "Job," "just" and "generally" appear in nearly every answer.

Judge it

Rate things out of ten and justify the score. "Judge," "just" and "generally" repeat.

Journal a day

Talk through a day like a journal entry. "January," "June," "July," "just" and "journey" all fit.