

# Y Sound Word List

Raise the middle of the tongue toward the roof of the mouth, smile the lips wide, and glide into the vowel.

## SOUND

/j/

## TYPICAL AGE

By age 3-4

## TYPE

Voiced Palatal glide

## PRACTICE TIP

Kids who cannot find /j/ often do well starting from a long "ee" - say "ee-ee-yellow" and let the ee slide into the word.

/j/ is a glide and never ends an English word, so this page has initial and medial lists only.

## Initial Position (39 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.

### 1 Syllable

18 words

|      |       |      |       |      |
|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| yes  | young | yell | yap   | yuck |
| you  | yawn  | yak  | yelp  | use  |
| yarn | year  | yam  | your  |      |
| yard | yolk  | yank | yours |      |

### 2 Syllables

11 words

|        |           |          |       |
|--------|-----------|----------|-------|
| yellow | useful    | yawning  | yodel |
| yogurt | yardstick | yearbook | yoga  |
| yummy  | yarn ball | yeti     |       |

### 3 Syllables

7 words

|         |            |             |       |
|---------|------------|-------------|-------|
| uniform | yesterday  | yoyo string | usual |
| unicorn | yellow bus | universe    |       |

### 4 Syllables

3 words

|          |               |              |
|----------|---------------|--------------|
| unicycle | uniform shirt | unicorn horn |
|----------|---------------|--------------|

## 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.

**your, yes, yourself, used, yet, use, year, young, yours, yesterday, using, usually, uses, yay**

## Medial Position (18 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.

### 2 Syllables

13 words

|          |           |        |          |      |
|----------|-----------|--------|----------|------|
| canyon   | barnyard  | rescue | billion  | yoyo |
| onion    | million   | amuse  | shipyard |      |
| backyard | courtyard | argue  | stallion |      |

### 3 Syllables

3 words

|          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| barbecue | computer | continue |
|----------|----------|----------|

### 4 Syllables

2 words

|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| ridiculous | unusual |
|------------|---------|

## 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

#### Yes and no sorting

Sort pictures into a yes pile and a no pile. Every single item gets a "yes" or a "no."

Words that come up: yes, yeah, you, your, yellow, yum, yuck, yawn, yo-yo, year, yet, young, yard, yarn

#### Yellow hunt

Find every yellow thing in the room. Yellow gets said dozens of times without feeling like drill.

Words that come up: yellow, yes, you, your, yuck, yum, yard, yo-yo, young, year, yawn, yank, yell, yet

#### Yo-yo and yarn play

Roll yarn into a ball, wind a yo-yo, tie things together.

Words that come up: yo-yo, yarn, yes, you, your, yank, yellow, yep, young, yard, year, yell, yawn, yum

### Conversation and verbal games for older kids

#### You would never guess

Tell a surprising true story. "You" and "your" appear in nearly every sentence.

#### Yesterday, today, tomorrow

Compare the three. "Yesterday" and "you" anchor every turn.

#### Yes-and improv

Build a scene where every reply starts with "yes, and." The word starts every turn by design.