

Quick Phonics Screener (QPS)

Starting the QPS

Say to the student: **“I’m going to ask you to read some words and sentences to me so I can find out what kinds of words are easy for you to read and what kinds of words you still need to learn. I want you to try to do your best. We probably won’t do this whole page; we’ll stop if it gets too hard. Any questions?”**

For the *NAMES* task, have students name the letter Q, not the qu digraph.

For the *SOUNDS* task, have students give you the SHORT sound for each of the VOWELS. If they say the long sound (letter name), say: **“That is one sound that letter makes. Do you know the short sound for that letter?”**

Procedures for Administration

STARTING POINT:

For students in Grade 4, the recommended starting point is Task 3a.

MOVING FROM TASK TO TASK:

If the student misses five words in Task 3a, have the student read the sentences in 3b. Then go back and administer Task 2b.

Administer each section of each task (i.e., words in isolation and then words in text).

ERROR CORRECTION:

If a student does not know a word, tell him/her to skip it and move on to the next one. Do not read the word for the student.

STOPPING TESTING:

Stop the assessment when the student appears frustrated or tired. **NOT ALL TASKS MUST BE ADMINISTERED**, but try to assess as many as possible so you will have sufficient information to plan instruction.

When a student misses five words in the word box, move to the words in text. Then, move to the next word box task. If the student misses five words in that word box, complete that task (administer the sentences), and stop the assessment.

A teacher may choose to administer additional tasks in order to gain further information but care must be taken not to frustrate the student.

Scoring the QPS

Mark errors and make notes/comments to help you remember how the student responded.

The QPS is scored by each individual task *ONLY*. Record the ratio of CORRECT responses over the total number POSSIBLE (e.g., 13/21 or 8/10) for each task. For Tasks 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, and 6b, only the *underlined* word counts, but note or make comments about how well other words were read.

NOTE: The grade level listed above each task is an APPROXIMATE level at which those phonics skills are taught. **Results from the QPS CANNOT be used to determine a student’s grade-level performance in reading, only their strengths/needs in key phonics skills.**

QUICK PHONICS SCREENER
Student Copy - page 1

Task 1(a)	m t a s i r d f o
Task 1(b)	g l h u c n b j k
	y e w p v qu x z
Task 2(a)	dad fog let tub in sit cup red map on
Task 2(b)	Sam and Ben hid the gum. Pat had a nap in bed. Mom had a top on a big pot. Tim can sit in a tub.
Task 3(a)	gasp romp mint just soft club bran snip prod sled
Task 3(b)	Glen will swim past the raft in the pond. The frog must flip and spin and jump.
Task 4(a)	nice mole rule doze fate ripe cave tile cane vote
Task 4(b)	Mike and Jane use a rope to ride the mule. Pete has five tapes at home.
Task 5(a)	cart pork verb shirt furl torn fern mark turn stir
Task 5(b)	The dark tar on his torn shirt burned and hurt him. The bird hid under the ferns in the park.

QUICK PHONICS SCREENER

Student Copy - page 2

Task 6(a)	lick sling sunk wrap ship whiz moth sigh chin knob
Task 6(b)	The ducks chomp on the knot. What is that on the right? Wring the wet dish cloth in the sink.
Task 7	foam roast • flea creak • mood scoop • steep bleed raise waist • fold scold • spray gray • shout mount spoil join • joy royal • haul fault • brawl straw toe goes • chew jewel • thrown pillow
Task 8	discount dismiss • nonsense nonstop • index intent • return regard station motion • famous jealous • madness witness • mission session • portable drinkable • fastest dampest • battle handle • mouthful fearful • traffic plastic • beware beneath • decay demand
Task 9(a)	moment crater bacon spider escape crazy mascot address basket punish
Task 9(b)	amputate liberty dominate elastic entertain practical innocent electric volcano segregate
Task 9(c)	particular contaminate community superior vitality evaporate inventory prehistoric solitary emergency

QUICK PHONICS SCREENER — Scoring Form

Student: _____ **Teacher:** _____ **Date:** _____

K-1st		SCORE		SCORE
Task 1. Letters	<i>NAMES</i>		<i>SOUNDS</i>	
(a) Names	m t a s i r d f o		m t a s i r d f o	/21 cons.
(b) Sounds	g l h u c n b j k		g l h u c n b j k	/5 vowels
	y e w p v qu x z	/26	y e w p v qu x z	
Gr. 1		COMMENTS		SCORE
Task 2. VC & CVC	dad fog let tub in			
(a) in List	sit cup red map on			/10
(b) in Text	Sam and Ben hid the gum. Pat had a nap in bed. Mom had a top on a big pot. Tim can sit in a tub.			/20
Task 3. CVCC & CCVC	gasp romp mint just soft			
(a) in List	club bran snip prod sled			/10
(b) in Text	Glen will swim past the raft in the pond. The frog must flip and spin and jump.			/10
Gr. 1-2				
Task 4. Silent E CVC-e	nice mole rule doze fate			
(a) in List	ripe cave tile cane vote			/10
(b) in Text	Mike and Jane use a rope to ride the mule. Pete has five tapes at home.			/10
Task 5. R-Control Vowels	cart pork verb shirt furl			
(a) in List	torn fern mark turn stir			/10
(b) in Text	The dark tar on his torn shirt burned and hurt him. The bird hid under the ferns in the park.			/10
Gr. 1-3				
Task 6. Consonant Digraphs	lick sling sunk wrap ship			
(a) in List	whiz moth sigh chin knob			/10
(b) in Text	The ducks chomp on the knot. What is that on the right? Wring the wet dish cloth in the sink.			/10
Task 7. Vowel Digraphs & Diphthongs	foam roast • flea creak • mood scoop • steep bleed			
(a) in List	raise waist • fold scold • spray gray • shout mount			
	spoil join • joy royal • haul fault • brawl straw			
	toe goes • chew jewel • thrown pillow			/30
Gr. 2-6				
Task 8. Prefixes & Suffixes	discount dismiss • nonsense nonstop • index intent			
(a) in List	return regard • station motion • famous jealous			
	madness witness • mission session • portable drinkable			
	fastest dampest • battle handle • mouthful fearful			
	traffic plastic • beware beneath • decay demand			/30
Task 9. Multi-Syllable	moment crater bacon spider escape			
(a) 2-Syllable	crazy mascot address basket punish			/10
(b) 3-Syllable	amputate liberty dominate elastic entertain			
	practical innocent electric volcano segregate			/10
(c) 4-Syllable	particular contaminate community superior vitality			
	evaporate inventory prehistoric solitary emergency			/10

QPS Class Summary

Student Name	Task 1			Task 2		Task 3		Task 4		Task 5		Task 6	Task 7	Task 8	Task 9		
	Letter-sounds			VC & CVC		CVCC & CCVC		VCe		Vowel+r		Cons. Digraph	Vowel Pair	Prefix/Suffix	2 syl	3 syl	4 syl
	26	21	5	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	30	30	10	10	10

Adapted from Denton, C. (2002). *QPS class summary*. Houston, TX: Center for Academic and Reading Skills, University of Texas, Houston; *Third Grade Teacher Reading Academy*. (2002). Austin, TX: UT System; Texas Education Agency; Education Service Center Region 13; Education Service Center Region 4.